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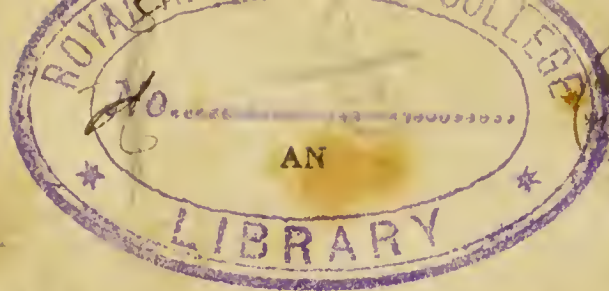
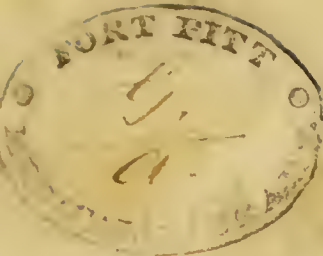
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ANALYTICAL VIEW

OF THE

MEDICAL



DEPARTMENT

OF THE

BRITISH ARMY.

R.A.M.

MUNIMEN
ROOM

By CHARLES MACLEAN, M. D.

LECTURER ON THE DISEASES OF HOT CLIMATES.

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INTRODUCTION.



THE enormous and complicated abuses, which pervade the Medical Department of the British Army, are a grievance, not only involving the criminal expenditure of immense sums of the public money, but, in their consequences, affecting the health and life of the soldier, the rights and dignity of the Medical profession, and, in as far as these are concerned, the vital interests of the empire. An investigation, tending to expose and to amend a system, so variously and extensively injurious, cannot but prove acceptable to every rational and unprejudiced member of the community.

Although the abuses in this Department have long been sensibly felt, in their effects, by every military, as well as every Medical man in the Army, yet the technical nature of the subject, and the mysterious forms in which

it has been designedly enveloped, have hitherto concealed, or at least obscured the causes of the evil, and prevented a competent knowledge of the remedy.

In the summer of 1807, when the notoriety of these abuses had at length attracted the attention of the legislature, and the concerns of the Medical Department were to come, in their turn, under the cognisance of the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, anxious that these gentlemen should be as little as possible misled by the species of evidence, to the influence of which I was aware they would be exposed, no matter whether from ignorance or design on the part of the witnesses, and desirous of affording them every facility for rendering a complete and comprehensive report, I drew up, in concert with my late ingenious and much lamented friend, Dr. Yates, some observations on the subject, in a series of Letters, which were first published in an evening newspaper, (*The Pilot*), under the signature of FABRICIUS AB AQUAPENDENTE, and afterwards, with some trifling alterations, re-published in the *Medical Observer*, under the signature of ARETÆUS. Dr. Yates further contributed to the information of the Commissioners by his oral testimony; but from the influence of the delusive evidence

which we had foreseen, it will appear that, in respect to some most essential points, they were prevented from availing themselves sufficiently of his powerful and disinterested aid.

Notwithstanding the peculiar disadvantages, under which enquiries on a subject so technical must have been conducted by non-professional men, on the appearance of the Fifth Report, we had the satisfaction to perceive that the principal facts and inferences, which we had stated from personal information only, were in every essential particular amply confirmed, in so far as they had become a subject of investigation, by the official documents and other evidence submitted to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, on which their report is founded: and this, it is presumed, may be considered no mean guarantee for the authenticity and importance of the whole. I hold it therefore due especially to my deceased friend, and also in some measure to myself, to refer frequently to these Letters as documents of some authenticity, trusting the parts, which the investigation of the Commissioners does not appear to have sufficiently embraced, will be found no less interesting than those, on which they have so ably and conscientiously reported.

Their report has now for nearly two years lain a dead letter on the table of the House of Commons; and lives and money have continued, as usual, to be squandered. But, notwithstanding the delay, which has occurred in taking the report into consideration, the publicity which it has given to the abuses in the Medical Department, has been otherwise productive of much good. It required but little penetration to foresee that, on the appearance of this document, which, able as it is, can only be considered as the ground work of a more complete and extensive investigation, much controversy would have been excited among the Members of the Medical Department, whose delinquencies were exposed, or whose interests were liable to be unfavourably affected. Numerous pamphlets, exculpatory and recriminating, in the shape of Letters addressed to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, have accordingly been issued from the press. The effect of these indiscreet publications, in which each party has been successful in exposing the errors of his neighbour, without being able to prove his own correctness, has been to elucidate and confirm, with much additional information, the statements of the Commissioners; and finally to shew that the whole system has been much

worse than could possibly have been conceived, by those who were only acquainted with its partial deformities.

This exposure, therefore, will have the advantage of being founded on the Letters of Aretæus, on the Fifth Report of the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, on the publications to which that report gave rise, and on subsequent personal research, as well as much communication with Medical Gentlemen of the Army. In developing the inefficiency of the Officers of this department, I shall avail myself principally of the writings of its own Members, especially those of the Surgeon-General, Drs. Bancroft, Jackson, and M'Grigor; whose evidence, in such a case, would, I should think, not be liable to suspicion. It is to be regretted that the Physician-General and Inspector-General should have deprived us of the benefit of *their* information, by limiting their communications to a *private* appeal to the Secretary at War, and Commander in Chief. But our materials are still sufficiently ample; and I trust that, by reducing the subject into a more popular form than that of a report to parliament, the abuses of the Medical Department of the Army may be rendered familiar to the legislature, and intelligible to every member of the community.

In making this attempt, I shall in general follow the line pointed out by the Commissioners of Military Enquiry; and it may here be observed that while, in respect to some parts of the investigation but little remains to be added to their valuable report, other parts will be found unavoidably deficient, and some of their inferences, from the nature of the evidence to which they were exposed, even altogether erroneous.

The parts which seem to require a more full elucidation are these :

1. The unfitness of the present Members of the Medical Board, under any system, for the duties of their situations, arising from absolute ignorance of the most essential parts of Military Medical knowledge, notorious want of public integrity, immeasurable extravagance, and a decided disposition to despotism, tyranny, and oppression, in all the subordinate details of their operations.

2. The unavoidable degeneracy of the establishment, in consequence of the disregard of every rule of promotion by seniority, into a system of favoritism, servility, and jobbing. I must here remark, as a caution, that the Medical Board, and their partisans, will endeavour to mislead parliament by attempting to limit the investigation, respecting

undue promotions, to the last two years, having perhaps since the terror of investigation has hung over their heads, observed somewhat less of indecorum than formerly in their proceedings. It will be recollected, that it is now considerably more than two years since their delinquencies have been constantly kept before the public.

3. Acts of individual injustice, tyranny, and oppression, committed with impunity by the Medical Board, or their agents; exemplified in the cases of Drs. Gordon, Buffa, Henderson, &c. &c. &c. The enormous injustice to individuals, which this board have been committing for a series of years, I am sensible, it will be difficult, if not impossible, now wholly to redress. But in order that some chance of justice might be afforded, it would appear highly expedient that a Committee of the House of Commons should be appointed for the purpose of examining into the cases of the different individuals, who have suffered from the flagitious conduct of that Board, and affording them such redress as circumstances will now admit.

4. The pernicious tendency of a cumbrous expensive and mischievous Inspectorial System,—surreptitiously raised by Mr. Knight to its present extravagant pitch, for the sole purpose of creating patronage for himself.

5. The Hospital Staff System; shewing that that also is unnecessary, or worse than useless.—The evidence submitted to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry on these subjects was much too circumscribed, and therefore misleading. Parliament will no doubt think it necessary to examine persons from each rank of Medical Officers, whether on full or on half-pay, and also from those who have been arbitrarily dismissed from the Medical Department of the Army, without the form of a trial. It may be thought farther necessary, in an investigation of such importance, that Medical Officers of corresponding ranks in the Ordnance, Navy, and East India Establishments, should be called upon, if the subject should appear to any one not to have already undergone sufficient discussion; in order that parliament may be enabled, on the whole, to form a full and accurate judgment, respecting the existing System, with all its enormous abuses, as well as what ought to be the new organisation of the Department.

6. An estimate, upon rational grounds, will be formed of the comparative usefulness of General and Regimental Hospitals. The ridiculous dispute on this subject, will be shewn to be a war of words, in respect to these Hospitals, the Members of the Medical Board, being

equally ignorant of both ; but in respect to themselves a contest for patronage, with which they are perfectly conversant.

7. *Peculation.*—It will be shewn that peculation and fraud in the Isle of Wight have been connived at, and the proofs of them suppressed by the Medical Board.

8. The scandalous and expensive job of the wooden building called the York Hospital at Chelsea, and other buildings employed as Hospitals, will be animadverted upon.

9. The criminal extravagance of the Medical Board, in respect to the quantities of medicine, wine, &c. &c. &c. and their no less criminal negligence, in respect to their quality, will be clearly manifested.

10. The pernicious effects of the interference of the Medical Board with Army practice will be displayed.

11. It will be shewn that Four Thousand lives, and upwards of 300,000*l.* of the public money may be annually saved in this Department, by the introduction of a proper system, and of proper persons to preside over it.*

* In the quarter between June and September 1809, the casualties in the Army, from official returns, have amounted to EIGHTEEN THOUSAND ! This to be sure happened under unusual circumstances. But a great deal of it is imputable to the igno-

12. A Sketch will be given of a New Organisation of the Establishment.

These are some of the principal points which I shall endeavour to establish to the satisfaction of the public by clear and irrefragable proofs. The inferences necessarily resulting from such proofs are:—That the present Members of the Medical Board, as incompetent persons, ought to be forthwith dismissed from their situations; and that, the system being radically wrong, an immediate reform of the establishment is absolutely necessary to the introduction of proper economy in the Department, to the well being of the soldier, to the rights and dignity of the Medical Profession, and consequently to the general interests of the empire.—

Some of the facts to be detailed in this Exposure will incidentally serve another, although a very subordinate, purpose. They will serve to explain some circumstances relating to myself, of which a set of wretched libellers have wished to avail themselves to my disadvantage, wherein the Medical Board have stupidly endeavoured to bear out one series of delinquencies, by committing another;—

rance and negligence of the Medical Board. The population of this country cannot long stand such a drain, as the loss of SEVENTY-TWO THOUSAND LIVES A YEAR, *at home only*.

circumstances, however, which are no other-wise worthy of attention than as they form a part of that flagrant, and almost openly avowed system of injustice practised in that department.

When, in the course of this enquiry, there has been occasion, as has frequently happened, to mention the names of Medical Officers, the reader will please to observe that they have been considered merely as connected with the system, and as they may have been unfairly promoted in consequence of favoritism or corrupt influence with the Medical Board, or their promotion unjustly retarded by the prejudice or hostility of that body. To impute to the writer any feelings of personality towards these Officers would therefore be extremely absurd. But with respect to the Members of the Medical Board, the case is widely different. As the turpitude of the system depends in so great a degree on the personal character of these men, it is obvious that to avoid personalities in speaking of them would be to forego the benefits of a complete exposure. In my language, however, I have throughout endeavoured to be as temperate as was consistent with my ideas of perspicuity and force; and I trust I have generally succeeded. But if it should appear that I

have, at any time, been betrayed into an unseemly warmth of expression, I trust it will be received as an apology that, meeting at every step of the enquiry with circumstances calculated to rouse the indignation of a much greater stoic than I profess to be, it was not possible adequately to express my sense of them in the mild language of abstract philosophy. Indeed I am persuaded there is not an individual in his Majesty's dominions, who can view what I have thrown together, without almost constantly experiencing the strongest alternate emotions of disgust, and indignation.

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2. *The Fifth Report of the Commissioners of Military Enquiry.*
3. *Observations on the Fifth Report of the Commissioners of Military Enquiry; and more particularly on those parts of it which relate to the Surgeon-General. By Thomas Keate, Esq. F. R. S. Surgeon-General to his Majesty's Forces, Surgeon to the Queen, to their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Duke of York, to Chelsea Hospital and to St. George's Hospital. 1808.*
4. *A Letter to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry; containing a refutation of some statements made by Mr. Keate, Surgeon-General to the Forces, respecting the Medical Department of the Army. By Robert Jackson. M. D. London. Murray, Fleet-street. 1808.*
5. *A Letter to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry; containing Animadversions on some parts of their Fifth Report, and an examination of the principles on which the Medical Department of Armies ought to be formed, &c. By Edward Nathaniel Bancroft, M. D. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Physician to his Majesty's Forces, and to St. George's Hospital, Cadell and Davies. 1808.*
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7. *A Letter to Mr. Keate, Surgeon-General to the Forces.*
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Deputy Inspector of Army Hospitals, &c. &c. &c.
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10. *Proceedings and Report of a Special Medical Board
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Chief, and the Secretary at War, to examine the State
of the Hospital at the Military Depot in the Isle of
Wight, &c. &c. &c.* P. 83. Seely, Fleet-street. 1808.
11. *Observations on the Proceedings and Report of the
Special Medical Board appointed by his Royal High-
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the Secretary at War, to examine the State of the
Army Depot Hospital in the Isle of Wight, interspersed
with Instances and Proofs of gross Misrepresentations,
contained in various Publications by Dr. Jackson.*
By Thomas Keate, Esq. F. R. S. Surgeon-General to
his Majesty's Forces, &c. &c. &c. Hatchard, Picca-
dilly. 1809. P. 155.

* Dr. M'Grigor having spelt his name originally with an e, but latterly with an i, it may be proper to inform the reader that the last spelling is adhered to.

12. *A Treatise on Tropical Diseases; on Military Operations; and on the Climate of the West Indies, &c.* By B. Moseley, M. D. Physician to Chelsea Hospital, &c. &c. 4th edition. Longman and Co. 1803.
13. *Observations on the Diseases of the Army in Camp and Garrison, &c.* By John Pringle, M. D. F. R. S. Physician-General to his Majesty's Forces employed abroad during the War. Edition of 1752.
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16. *Suggestions for the Prevention of Yellow Fever.* By Stuart Henderson, M. D. Stockdale, Pall Mall. 1809.

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AN

EXPOSURE,

&c. &c.



AT a period like the present, it will not be necessary to insist upon the great importance, whether in a moral, political, or financial point of view, of every circumstance which can affect the health and lives of British soldiers. If, at all times, the public money would be much better expended in saving the life of the soldier, which is usually thrown away in replacing him, how greatly is the value of every drop of British blood now enhanced by the awful and unprecedented aspect of the embattled world!

Is it not then astonishing, or rather, I should say, incredible, that the organization of that department, which superintends the health and lives of his Majesty's armies, should never have been made the subject of legislative enactment or revision? That, while the corresponding departments of the Navy, the Ordnance, and the East India Company's Establishments have been subjected to fixed, and for the most part, excellent regulations, the compilation of rules for the Medical Department of the Army (if rules they can be called, which leave every thing arbitrary and uncertain) should

have been confided to the discretion of the Members of the Medical Board, persons notoriously interested in perpetuating the abuses of the establishment? For this fact we have no less than their own authority. “At the time of the appointment of the (Medical) Board, in 1793,” says Mr. Keate, “*no specific instructions were given to them, and those which were subsequently received related to those particular points only, on which explanation was required by the Board**.” Whenever the Medical Board might have thought proper to require *explanation on particular points*, we shall find that it was not with a view of *restricting or defining the limits of their own authority*, but avoiding all risk of personal responsibility; and circumstances were unfortunately but too favorable to their selfish views. And to whom were they, in case of need, to apply for instructions? *To the Secretary at War, or Commander in Chief!* But these officers, however their authority may pass current in military matters, cannot, I should apprehend, be considered as competent to the task of *medical legislation*.

Under such a system, and with such men as its chiefs, it cannot be thought surprising that the natural tendency of this department should have been to increase in corruptness in proportion as it grew older; that no attempt should have been made at improvement, but such as was extorted by the immediate necessities of the service; that its degradation has been long sensibly felt, and loudly complained of; and that its abuses are now so notorious, that, while under other establishments there is no lack of candidates for employment, Medical men of *education* cannot be found in sufficient numbers to enter this branch of his Majesty’s service. In proof of this fact

* See Fifth Report of the Com. Mil. Enq. Appendix, No. 2.

we have the express words of his Majesty's warrant of the 22d of May, 1804, "*for increasing the advantages and improving the situation of the Medical Officers of the Army.*"—"Whereas, we have approved of an arrangement for increasing the advantages and improving the situation of Medical Officers of our Army, *with a view of encouraging able and well educated persons to enter into and continue in that line of our service, &c.**"—As by this arrangement, however, no provision was made by the Medical Board against their own injustice, the principal source of the evil, it was not to be expected that mere increase of pay, partially conferred, could have had the effect of meliorating the condition of the establishment. On the contrary, the dearth of *medical recruits* (to use a favorite expression of the Medical Board) has continued to increase to such a degree that the Inspector General, in a letter to Mr. Moore, Deputy Secretary at War, dated the 27th May, 1807, thus pathetically bewails the circumstance:—"I had the honor of addressing myself to the Secretary at War, of the 10th ult. on the *lamentable* want of Medical Officers in the Army, and the most *ostensible* causes of such deficiency, &c" (5th Rep. Com. M. E. p. 127). He then, in a strain more befitting a retail shopkeeper than a man of science, assigns the most grovelling and mercenary motives for the want of medical candidates for the army; motives which could never have entered the heads of young men *previous* to their entering the service, and which, therefore, could not possibly have operated to *prevent their entering*. "From one or all of these circumstances," continues the Inspector General, "the supply of *medical recruits* to the army is very unequal to the demand, as well as to our expectations, and must

* See Medical Observer and Family Monitor, vol. iii. p. 353.

“ *necessarily* daily diminish*.” On his examination before the Commissioners of Military Enquiry (13th Oct. 1807) Mr. Knight says, “ The same difficulties still exist; and
 “ rather in a greater degree than before, as we were
 “ unable to *furnish* more than *one third* of the requisition
 “ for Hospital Mates for the last expedition under Gen.
 “ Beresford †.”

We find, that in 1806, a similar complaint of scarcity had been made by the three Members of the Board conjointly, also in a letter to the Deputy Secretary at War. “ Before we quit this subject, we take occasion to remark, that we have met with *unexpected* difficulties in
 “ raising our *medical recruits*; and if the continental war
 “ had proceeded, we should have found ourselves unequal
 “ to the necessary *supply* ‡.” The very language used towards them by the Members of the Board, indicate smore strongly than any thing I could express, the principal cause of the dislike entertained by men of education and gentlemanly habits (and I believe it is thought necessary that professional men should be of this description) to the Medical department of the army.

If the conduct of the Medical Board, indeed, had been generally known, it would have been quite impossible, that any man educated at an university, should have so far degraded himself as to become a candidate for the service. But notwithstanding the ignorance that must have prevailed among students, respecting the extent of the injustice and the indignities, to which they were to be exposed as *medical recruits*, the Board found themselves obliged to have recourse to unjustifiable stratagems, and even deception, in order to *induce* well educated persons to *enter into* the service, and afterwards

* See Fifth Report Com. Mil. Enq. p. 128.

† Ibid, p. 125.

‡ See Fifth Report Com. Mil. Enq. p. 127.

to *refuse them leave to resign*, in order to *induce* them to continue *in it*! Now, however that the degraded state of the whole system is about to be very generally known, Mr. Knight, or his successor, will be obliged in *furnishing* himself with a *supply of medical recruits*, to confine his researches (unless the immediate result of the present investigation should be a radical reform of the department) to his own cadet establishment, and the apothecaries shops in the country. God help his Majesty's armies when attacked by dysentery or fevers!

Necessity and exposure appear to have at length produced some little alteration in the extraordinary conduct of this very extraordinary body, towards their *medical recruits*. Lately, for the first time, I have observed that hospital mates were put upon the footing of gentlemen, and their appointments inserted in the Gazette. (See the London Gazettes for July, 1809.) But notwithstanding this feeble and unwilling concession, we must conclude that there are still impediments, which it is not in the capacity of the present Medical Board to remove, to the entrance of a sufficient number of *gentlemen of education* into the service, if it be true that a certain Mr. William Williams, is now actually an hospital mate, doing duty with our armies, whose age scarcely exceeds *seventeen* years, and whose apprenticeship was of the duration of *four months*!!!

The principal, if not the sole cause of this evil, which the Medical Board are unable to discern, is clearly indicated by the following facts. The same difficulty does *not* occur in the Ordnance department, as we find from the answer of Sir J. M. Hayes, Inspector General, to a question of the Commissioners of Military Enquiry.

Q. "Is there any difficulty in procuring gentlemen, so qualified (possessing the diplomas of Surgeon from the College of Surgeons of London, Dublin, or Edinburgh) to fill vacancies when they occur?"

A. “ We *seldom* find *any* difficulty, and we *generally* have *candidates for employment* upon our list.” (See Fifth Report, p. 176.)

This fact is also sufficiently explained by another answer of the same gentleman.

Q. “ On *what examination*, and on *whose recommendation*, are *promotions obtained* in the Ordnance Medical department ?”

A. “ Promotions *always* go on *according to seniority*, if there be no objection.” (See Fifth Report, p. 175).

On this surely it cannot be necessary to offer a comment.

When the enormity of the abuses of this department became at length so conspicuous, as to attract the attention of the public, and it was judged necessary to lay them officially before the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, these Gentlemen, as might naturally have been expected, both from the nature of the subject, and the bias of the evidence, found the investigation to be one of more than ordinary difficulty. “ The subject of the “ Enquiry,” say they, “ was new to every Member of “ the Commission; it required, therefore, much time “ and exertion to acquire a knowledge of it. Notwith- “ standing our anxiety to be rightly informed, *it is not “ improbable but that we may have been misled in our in- “ formation on some points*, and that we have conse- “ quently judged incorrectly of them; but we have se- “ dulously endeavoured to avoid mistakes, and to form “ an unprejudiced judgment on a subject respecting “ which, much difference of opinion appears to have “ prevailed amongst professional men, and much jealousy “ to have been entertained by the public.” (See Fifth Rep. Com. Mil. Enq. p. 87).

The time which this Report has lain upon the table of the House of Commons, (nearly two years), and the various publications and controversies to which it has

given rise, have afforded ample opportunity of completing the investigation of the subject, in a manner that I trust cannot fail to be ultimately productive of salutary consequences to the army, the profession, and the whole empire.

The delay, therefore, however much to be regretted, has in some respects been productive of utility. It has afforded an opportunity of divesting the subject of much of the technicality by which it has been obscured, and of rendering it familiar not only to members of the Legislature, but to the bulk of the community. But now that the abuses are ripened to the eye, to prolong the delay further, would be both a national crime, and a national disgrace of the most indelible hue. How many valuable lives might be lost by the delay of another session! Without dwelling on minor instances of fatality among his Majesty's forces, with which the inefficiency of the Medical department of the army might serve to supply us, I will be bold to say, that if the investigation had been undertaken and acted upon sooner, we might have been saved the poignant regret of reflecting, that in the space of about thirty months, 13,000 of our best troops, died victims in the West Indies; and that during and after the late expedition to Spain, a great many more of our gallant soldiers fell a sacrifice to disease, than to famine and the enemy. "It is not my intention," says Dr. Chisholm *, "to enter on the invidious task of displaying the real causes of the loss of 13,437 soldiers, our countrymen, in a period little exceeding thirty months, by the malignant pestilential, and yellow remittent fevers; but I may, without incurring censure, ask, why the mercurial treatment was not recurred to,

* See Essay on the Malignant Pestilential Fever, &c. second edition, Preface, p. 17. N. B. Dr. Chisholm was Inspector General of the Ordnance Medical department in the West Indies.

“ when that adopted had so generally failed? No satis-
 “ faction will arise from being told, that much of the
 “ dreadful mortality which took place proceeded from
 “ the latter of these diseases; for the applicability of
 “ the question to the nature of the event is not dimi-
 “ nished. I should not, however, consider it as neces-
 “ sary to state the general circumstances of the medical
 “ conduct of the hospitals, did not the accumulations
 “ of death from 1796 to 1798, present an argument to the
 “ uninformed, against the utility and propriety of the
 “ mercurial treatment of the fatal maladies in question.
 “ To such the evidences which the fourth part comprises
 “ may be useful; for my own justification, I consider
 “ them as necessary*. A vain and absurd attempt
 “ was indeed made in the year 1797, to shew that the
 “ exhibition of mercury, in the fatal epidemics which
 “ prevailed during that, and the preceding year, had
 “ been generally recurred to; and that the general result
 “ was far from favourable: but the reports on which
 “ this belief was founded, were of such a nature as dis-
 “ credited the position which they were intended to
 “ establish; for it is universally known, that the mer-
 “ curial treatment was industriously condemned by those
 “ placed in the direction of the hospitals; and a youth-
 “ ful, inexperienced, and docile staff readily trusted,
 “ where attention, application, and a denial of accus-
 “ tomed indulgence would have been the price of suc-
 “ cess. Were there a possibility of inaccuracy in this

* As Dr. Chisholm seems to lay claim to originality in the treatment of fevers by mercury, I think it right to state, that I introduced this practice into the Island of Jamaica in 1790, and had employed it previous to that period in the East India Company's service. I shall take another opportunity, as this is not a fit place for medical investigation, of examining the propriety of the distinction attempted to be established by this writer between the malignant pestilential, and the yellow remittent fevers.

“ statement, I would rejoice in suppressing it. I am per-
 “ fectly open to conviction, and feel no enmity to any
 “ individual of the staff; but justice to myself, and hu-
 “ manity, shuddering at the destruction of nearly the
 “ whole of the West India army, call upon me to declare
 “ that there is undoubted authority for stating, that,
 “ notwithstanding the total inefficacy of the remedies
 “ generally employed in the general hospitals, the prac-
 “ tice described by me was not recurred to by more than
 “ three army-physicians in a fair and judicious manner,
 “ Two of these gentlemen are unhappily no more; but
 “ Dr. Wright is a living monument of the advantages
 “ which result from the employment of mercury, con-
 “ ducted by candor, by professional skill, and by judg-
 “ ment. This gentleman’s report has been made public,
 “ and the world unite in the eulogium of the author.

“ The absurd conduct of the Medical Board at home,
 “ at the time Sir Ralph Abercrombie’s army was formed,
 “ is chiefly reprehensible; and may, indeed, very justly
 “ be considered as an extenuation of the inexperience,
 “ the folly, or the crime, of the younger members of
 “ the Medical Staff of that army. In the name of com-
 “ mon sense, let me ask, what useful purposes could
 “ arise from a regulation which precluded all from ex-
 “ ercising the important functions of an army Physician,
 “ but such as derived their medical knowledge from
 “ seminaries where none can be obtained; or such as
 “ were, or became licentiates of the London College of
 “ Physicians? What had an Oxford or a Cambridge de-
 “ gree; what had a licence to practice within seven
 “ miles of London, to do with medical practice within
 “ the tropics? Can the whole of that learned body
 “ united communicate that experience in the treatment of
 “ inter-tropical fevers, which can be acquired only by a
 “ long and painful attention to them in the torrid regions
 “ where they are endemic? This singular infatuation, by
 “ which the order of things was inverted, proceeded

“ from views best known to the triumvirate themselves;
 “ but its effects may be considered as the remote cause
 “ all the misfortunes which befel the devoted troops
 “ composing the army under the command of Sir Ralph
 “ Abercrombie. Our country, therefore, have inex-
 “ pugnable reasons for consigning a board, whose re-
 “ solves and regulations militate so forcibly against the
 “ sober dictates of common sense, and whose self-suffi-
 “ ciency has given existence to a cloud which obscures
 “ the most manifest proofs of the baleful tendency of
 “ their measures, to the fate of the unhappy victims
 “ who have fallen under the operation of both.”

The observations of Dr. Wells on this subject are so
 much in point, that they are worthy of being quoted:—
 “ Some notion may be formed of the extent of these
 “ prejudices (concerning Oxford and Cambridge degrees)
 “ from the undermentioned circumstances in the con-
 “ duct of Sir Lucas Pepys, as Physician-General to the
 “ army. I possess, indeed, a still more flagrant ex-
 “ ample of their influence, but I prefer the present as
 “ being of a public nature.

“ Suspicions having arisen in the beginning of the
 “ present war, that the dreadful mortality of our troops
 “ in the West Indies, had, in part at least, been owing to
 “ their want of proper medical aid, it necessarily became
 “ an object of great national concern, that the immense
 “ armament which was preparing in 1795, to be sent to
 “ those countries under the command of Sir Ralph
 “ Abercrombie, should be provided with able Physicians.
 “ In this state of things Dr. William Wright, of Edin-
 “ burgh, was mentioned to a person in power, as being
 “ well acquainted with the diseases of the West Indies;
 “ in consequence of which a gentleman, connected with
 “ administration, authorised a common friend to make
 “ him the offer of being a Physician to the armament.
 “ Having signified his willingness to accept this appoint-

“ ment, he was desired to remain in Edinburgh till his
 “ services should be required.

“ It is proper to say somewhat here concerning the
 “ fitness of Dr. Wright, for the situation to which he
 “ was designed. *He was a Fellow of the College of*
 “ *Physicians of Edinburgh*, and had formerly served his
 “ Majesty seventeen years, chiefly in the West Indies.
 “ He had besides practised medicine in Jamaica, while
 “ unconnected with the army, for thirteen years, during
 “ great part of which time he was Physician-General to
 “ the Militia of the island. His talents had not in the
 “ meanwhile been confined to the cultivation of the
 “ practical part of his profession. Having included
 “ natural history among the objects of his study, he had,
 “ during his residence in Jamaica, explored almost the
 “ whole of it, in his attempt to extend the limits of
 “ that science, and had in consequence made many im-
 “ portant discoveries of plants, some of which had been
 “ published in the Philosophical Transactions of London
 “ and Edinburgh, and various other works. By these
 “ means he had become well known to many of the
 “ learned in different parts of the world, and had been
 “ admitted a member of the Royal Societies of London
 “ and Edinburgh, and several other bodies of literary
 “ men. In short, if private worth, patient industry,
 “ diversified knowledge, great general skill in medicine,
 “ and long experience of those diseases in particular
 “ which attack Europeans in the West Indies, were
 “ qualities to be desired in a Physician to his Majesty’s
 “ forces there, the fitness of Dr. Wright to be one was
 “ most eminent.

“ To return to my narrative: in September Dr. Wright
 “ came to London, expecting to receive the promised
 “ appointment immediately upon his arrival; but he
 “ was told at the Army Medical Board that, by a rule
 “ of Sir Lucas Pepys, it could not be given to him,

“ unless he had a licence to practice medicine from the
 “ College of Physicians of London. He declared his rea-
 “ diness to submit to the forms necessary for obtaining
 “ one; but those could not be completed before the end of
 “ December, and the armament it was intended he should
 “ accompany was almost upon the point of sailing. Sir
 “ Lucas Pepys was, therefore, strongly urged by several
 “ persons to suspend his rule; among others by two of
 “ his own friends, who told him that Dr. Wright would
 “ certainly be appointed, whether he recommended him
 “ or not. His answer was, ‘*he would never recommend*
 “ ‘*Dr. Wright, and was sure the King would not sign*
 “ ‘*his commission.*’ But it was quickly seen that he had
 “ grossly over-rated his consequence. It was indeed
 “ not to be supposed, that the rule of a Court Physician,
 “ whose connection with the army had commenced only
 “ a year or two before, by his being placed at once at
 “ the head of its medical department, would long pre-
 “ vent the execution of a measure, deemed by the ablest
 “ judges highly beneficial to the military service of our
 “ country. In October, by the influence chiefly of Sir
 “ Ralph Abercrombie, Dr. Wright was appointed a
 “ Physician to the armament, and shortly after went
 “ with it to the West Indies.

“ The only possible ground upon which Sir Lucas
 “ Pepys could, consistently with his duty to the public,
 “ have formed this rule, appears to be that he regarded
 “ an examination of medical ability by men whom he
 “ knew, and upon whose report he could, therefore, im-
 “ plicitly rely, as a necessary test of the fitness of those
 “ who were to be entrusted with the important charge
 “ of watching over the health of his Majesty’s troops.
 “ But if this be supposed the principle of his rule, what
 “ must be said of his recommending, notwithstanding,
 “ several persons to be physicians to the army, who had
 “ never undergone such an examination? Perhaps they

“ were evidently so superior in ability to Dr. Wright, as
 “ to justify even a breach of principle in their favour:—
 “ No; they were young men, who had not yet completed
 “ their academical education, and who probably had never
 “ had the entire management of a dangerous disease
 “ committed to their care. They were, however, *Bachelors of Physic from Cambridge**.”

The fate of the troops was such as might have been expected. The conduct of Sir Lucas Pepys, in this very flagrant instance, as well as in the case of a late ingenious and able physician (Dr. Yates), evince how trifling a consideration it is with him to provide physicians of talents and experience for his Majesty's forces, in comparison to the important concern of supporting college etiquette. Indeed it shews so remarkable a deficiency of common sense, as well as of common feeling, that however fit he may be for President of the College, Sir Lucas Pepys, if there were no other disqualifying circumstances, is wholly unfit for the office of Physician General to the army.

The calamitous state of our troops, on their return from Spain, is too recent in the recollection of their kindred and country to require a particular description. It is well known, that the scarcity of general hospitals, which had been as wantonly dismantled to serve the purposes of Mr. Knight, as they had been extravagantly erected to suit the views of Mr. Keate, exposed the troops to deprivations on their landing, worse even than those they had experienced on their perilous retreat. The naval hospitals alone afforded them any sort of consolation or relief.

* See Dr. Wells's able Letter to Lord Kenyon, relative to the conduct of the College of Physicians in the case of Dr. Stanger, published in No. xxv. of the Medical Observer.

Some account of an Oxford and Cambridge Medical education will be given in Notes A and B, at the end.

† See Medical Observer.

The aid sent by the Medical Board to these unfortunate men, suffering (as I predicted many months ago would happen)†, from diarrhœa, dysentery, and fever, was composed of a levy of young gentlemen from the London hospitals and dissecting rooms, interspersed, perhaps, with a few of Mr. Knight's cadets, some of whom, I have heard it confidently asserted, had never seen a dysentery in their lives, and would have turned pale or fainted at the very sight of its terrible symptoms. This should be made a subject of the gravest and most deliberate public enquiry.

It was naturally to be expected then, that as one, and a principal result of their labours, the Commissioners of Military Enquiry should, in the most unqualified manner, have recommended the abolition of the offices of Physician General, Surgeon General, Inspector General, and Comptroller of Army Hospital Accounts, (See Fifth Report, p. 81, 82), to which they add, that the superintendence of the Medical department of the army should be placed in a Board of Commissioners, constituted of a Chairman, and of two junior Members: and they very properly continue: "It is requisite, we think, that the
 " Chairman should be well acquainted with the *details of*
 " *military service*, both at home and abroad; and that the
 " two junior Members should be *Medical Officers* who
 " have served in the capacities of Regimental and Staff
 " Surgeons, *in different climates, and on active service*," (p. 82). These qualifications clearly infer, that it is the opinion of the Commissioners, that none of the present men should remain Members of the Board. But lest there should be any doubt on this head, they afterwards express themselves still more strongly to the same effect: "It will be observed, that many of the suggestions in
 " this Report are founded on the expectation that our
 " recommendation of a discontinuance of the present
 " Army Medical Board will be adopted." (See Fifth Re-

port, p. 87). In answering some queries of the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, respecting the chiefs of the department, Mr. Inspector Young says, "I would deem it unbecoming to make personal allusions to the conduct of any of the individuals forming the Army Medical Board. It is sufficient for me to say, that it has long been my opinion, that the duties of the department at home might be conducted, as has been done before, by one intelligent officer, whoever his Majesty might appoint, aided by such assistance as might be deemed expedient. Their appointments should be such, that *their whole attention might be given to that important office.*"

"Should the Commissioners, however, be of opinion that three would conduct the duties of the department better than one, it is necessary for me to state, that it appears to me, *a reform in the present Board would be highly proper.*" (Fifth Report, p. 190).

This is unequivocally pronouncing, that the present men are not fit for their situations: and I will venture to assert, that there is not an officer in the whole army, the Medical department included, excepting their immediate parasites, who would not rejoice at their removal.

It shall be my endeavour to enforce more pointedly the necessity of this change, as well on the ground of general expediency, as of the particular unfitness of the persons actually holding these situations. Here, however, I must enter my protest, against the opinion, which may be implied from the language of the Commissioners, and which it was probably their intention to convey, that the *senior* Member of the Board should be *military*, not *medical*. The chief situation of the Medical department should here, as in India, constitute the reward of the longest medical services. But, as under the present confused state of the Medical establishment, resulting from arbitrary promotion, it would perhaps be impossible to ascertain,

upon any fair principle, the respective claims of the Members to seniority, on appointing the *first* Members of the *new* Board, *detur digniori* may be thought to be the best rule; and as I am taking the liberty to point out the errors of the present system, and the unsuitness of the present men, I may be allowed to state, what is in my opinion the proper system, and who are, according to my ideas, the fit men. In respect to the former, we are under no necessity of innovating; for we have a model of perfection before our eyes in the long established organization of the East India Company's Medical department; and with respect to the latter we shall find all the necessary qualifications of talents and experience, united with integrity, in a Moseley, a Dick, and a Yates*. The appointment of such men to the head of the department, I am ready to stake my existence, would produce an annual saving at least to the extent of a third, if not half of the lives lost, especially in dysentery and fevers in his Majesty's armies, and consequently of immense sums of money to the state. The comparison is capable of being easily made by means of accurate returns of the sick. But on the subject of returns, we are informed by Dr. Bancroft (see his *Exposure and Refutation*, &c. p. 10,) that Mr. Knight refused him all access to them, while he

* When I mention these gentlemen particularly, I would not be understood to infer that there are not others qualified for the duties of those situations, but that they are, from original powers of mind, education and experience of diseases in various climates, the *best qualified I know*. The two former, no less celebrated as Physicians in the Capital than they were formerly in the Eastern and the Western world, cannot be enriched by the trifling mead of my eulogium; and the latter is now removed from the reach of all sublunary praise. Some weeks after this was written, I had the sorrow to learn that, by the death of Dr. Yates, science was deprived of a most ingenious cultivator, and society of a most worthy member. I feel a melancholy satisfaction in having, by anticipation, paid this trifling, but disinterested tribute to his memory.

communicated them for particular purposes to Dr. McGrigor.—Such is the mode in which every thing is smuggled, and the public deluded, in this department.

In accusing men who have filled the important office of Members of the Army Medical Board, of a total unfitness for their situations, I am by no means unaware of the responsibility attached to so serious a charge, nor shall I shrink from it. If I should appear under any fair construction to fail in proving my charge, by a series of acknowledged data and legitimate inferences, I shall cheerfully submit to the test of any comparative trial, in reasoning or practice, with those who now compose that Board, and consequently to the risk of disgrace that would attend a defeat.

The precise conclusions which I expect will be the result of this enquiry are these:—

1st. That under *any* system the present Members of the Army Medical Board are totally unfit for their situations, and ought to be forthwith dismissed.

2dly. That the present system is radically wrong, and that an immediate reform is necessary to induce men of good education, possessing independent minds, and the habits of gentlemen, to *enter into*, and *continue in* the service.

There are three or four principles, by any one of which my first position is capable of being proved, as I think to the satisfaction of all unbiassed men; and by uniting them all, I despair not of being able to convince even the most prejudiced. These are:—

1st. An ignorance of the necessities of armies in hot climates, and on active service.

2dly. The disposition uniformly manifested by their conduct of making improper appointments, and omitting to make proper appointments.

3dly. The extravagant expenditure of public money,

occasioned by improper measures, and by absolute neglect of duty, while they have been continually boasting of their purity and love of œconomy.

And, finally, an unjust, arbitrary, and despotic conduct in all the details of their operations.

First, it is quite obvious that men who have never been on active foreign service, and especially in hot climates, cannot be judges of the necessities of armies in those situations in which they are most exposed to disease, and cannot therefore direct either the proper quantity of medicines, or the proper mode of applying them. As well might any disciple of Hamilton Moore, who is a complete master of the theory of navigation, but had never been at sea, pretend to manœuvre a ship of the line in action, or a military officer, who knows the tactics of the day, but has never seen a shot fired in anger, successfully to command an army in battle. And, what is in the present arbitrary state of this department if possible still worse, men themselves ignorant of the necessities of armies upon active service and in hot climates, are constituted the judges of the qualifications of those who are to be selected for distant and important expeditions. Here, then, we have a Medical Board, presiding over the health and lives of his Majesty's forces, ignorant not only of the nature of the means proper to be employed, in the most critical situations of armies, but of what ought to be the qualifications of the agents who are to administer them. If it be considered that to her foreign dependencies, to which this argument is more especially applicable, Great Britain owes so large a proportion of her wealth, commerce, and power, every moments delay in revising the system of the Medical department will acquire additional importance. Every day, nay every hour, that men so ignorant and so negligent, to say nothing of corruptness, are allowed to re-

tain situations of such high trust, for which they have been proved to be wholly unqualified, must be an accumulation of injury to the country.

The Board consists of three Members, a Physician-General, Surgeon-General, and Inspector-General of Army Hospitals. Every man of common powers of understanding would conclude that some small portion of experience and practical observation, in camps, and in hot climates, might be necessary to enable these *general* officers to discharge, with judgment and success, the important duties of their situations—duties, on the faithful and enlightened performance of which may depend not only the fate of armies, but eventually the fate of empires. But how, without supposing supernatural talents, can such knowledge be acquired in the common routine of hospital practice in London, where the diseases most incidental to armies, seldom, if ever, occur?

Let us try the individual merits of the present occupiers by our first principle.

Sir Lucas Pepys, Physician-General, and presiding Member of the Medical Board, if ever he has been beyond the bills of mortality, or the watering places, is well known never to have been in foreign climates, or to have served in any medical capacity in the army, previous to his having obtained the highest rank in that department. In proof of the fact, let us hear Sir Lucas himself, in his answers to the queries of the Commissioners of Military Enquiry. (See Fifth Report, p. 99, 102.)

Q. “What acquaintance had you with Army Medical practice, previous to your appointment to be Physician-General to the Army in January, 1794?”

A. “None.”

Q. “What acquaintance have you had since your appointment with Army Hospital practice?”

A. “None, *personally*.”

Q. " Do you ever visit an Army Hospital and examine into the conduct of it?

A. " I am just returned from visiting an Army Hospital, at the barrack, at Maldon, in Essex." (For the first time, I presume, in his life.)

Q. " Have you ever visited the York Hospital, at Chelsea?

A. " NEVER!"

In corroboration of the inference, we learn, from their own official documents, that the three Members of the Medical Board are incompetent to direct the fitting up properly of a medicine chest for 250 men for one year. While they incur an enormous expence by an excessive quantity of articles in little use, and of some which are never employed, the *twelve months allowance* of the principal and most active medicines used in modern army practice, is not sufficient, under probable contingencies, for the expenditure of *one week* ! And it is not sufficient that this allowance should be regulated by invoice, but *the Surgeon is expected to confine his practice to it**. I have known more than the quantity allotted in this invoice *for 250 men for one year*, of one of the most essential articles employed in medicine, necessarily, and with the best effects consumed by *one soldier in one day*. (For the invoice, see Medical Observer, vol. iv. p. 187, 188.) On this point I am willing to rest the question of the ignorance of the Medical Board of the necessities of armies in hot climates, and on foreign service, and ready to prove it, if the means be afforded me. These observations of course apply to the other Members of the Board, as well as to the Physician-General.

Mr. Keate, Surgeon-General, and second Member of

* See Instructions to Regimental Surgeons for Regulating the Concerns of the Sick, &c. Medical Observer, and Family Monitor, vol. iv. p. 86, and Fifth Rep. Com. Mil. Inq. p. 65.

the Medical Board, must have acquired his experience of the necessities of armies in foreign climates, from the limited scene of casualties which may have occurred in the regular routine of parades at the Horse Guards, or occasional field days and reviews in Hyde Park and Wimbledon Common.

Mr. Knight, Inspector-General of Army Hospitals, and third Member of the Medical Board, in respect to foreign travel, may be said to have some little advantage over Mr. Keate, having once crossed the Channel, in the family of the Commander in Chief, in the ever memorable expedition to Holland.

The two last Members of the Board, if fame speaks true, are, in one respect at least on a footing of perfect equality. They were originally and wisely destined, by nature and their parents, to officiate as apothecaries and men-midwives, the one in Westminster, and the other in some country town or village. But they were ambitious to rise, and Providence, for ends which we are incapable of scrutinizing, has suffered their intrigues for a time to prosper, employing them no doubt as scourges to punish the sins of the Medical profession, and the British soldier. What might have been the first steps in the exaltation of these two worthies I am not correctly informed. It is said that they are related; and if so, possibly the one might have assisted the other. They both however obtained a footing in the Guards, where they must have acquired their whole knowledge of Medico-military affairs. Report says, that when Mr. Keate became Inspector, they agreed mutually to assist each others advancement, and on his promotion to be Surgeon-General, he was to aid in procuring Mr. Knight the Inspectorship. On the death of Mr. Gunning, however, when Mr. Keate actually became Surgeon-General, the late Mr. Rush was made Inspector; and on this occasion, the seed of future discord is said to have been sown between these two

mighty men. Mr. Knight, we are told, set up for himself; and, upon the death of Mr. Rush, probably found no difficulty, without the assistance of Mr. Keate, in succeeding to the Inspectorship. Become colleagues, a rivalry of business and of patronage appears to have very early commenced, and to have constantly existed between them, with increasing animosity to the present day. The interests of Sir Lucas Pepys led him to take part generally with Mr. Keate; and it was only when a victim was to be sacrificed, that the three were ever cordially united. But the partizans of Mr. Knight relied so firmly on the superiority of his influence, that, if we may judge from some parts of the evidence which was presented to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, a deliberate plan was formed for getting quit of the other two Members, and constituting him *sole* regulator of the business and patronage of the department. I cannot see any other tendency that the evidence of Drs. Borland and Mc. Grigor could have had, than to impress this upon the minds of the Commissioners. After saying whatever his imagination could suggest to exalt the character of Mr. Knight, and by inference to depress that of Mr. Keate, Dr. Borland concludes his statement with this very extraordinary, and palpably absurd observation: "There can be no doubt that, if ONE authority controuled, and ONE Medical regulation pervaded the whole army, the Hospital expenditure, medicines included, might be defrayed from the Hospital stoppages." See Fifth Report, p. 162). Without any reference to the possibility of defraying the Hospital expenditure out of the Hospital stoppages, which is not here the question, I shall have occasion, in another place, to shew how far Mr. Knight is a fitter authority than any other to controul; and how far Dr. Borland ought to be considered as an adequate or unbiassed judge in such matters. With respect to Dr. M'Grigor (in his publication, entitled, "A

Reply to some Animadversions of Dr. Bancroft"), he echoes, I believe, the very words of Dr. Borland. The Commissioners, however, did not fall into the snare; and events have since transpired, which will probably save the department from this last disgrace.

To this statement, it will perhaps be objected that, although the Members of the Medical Board know nothing, absolutely nothing, of the necessities of armies, or the treatment of diseases, in hot climates and on active service, this deficiency may be made up by the knowledge and experience of their assistants. Were this really the case, the consequence ought to be, that the principals should be dismissed as useless, and the deputies advanced to the situation of principals. But in a subsequent part of this enquiry, I shall have occasion to shew that the Surgeon General's Assistant is as destitute of the necessary qualifications for the office as his uncle, and that according to the opinions of the other two Members of the Board, the Inspector-General's Deputy is, if possible, more unfit for dictating the practice of Regimental Surgeons than his superior in the department.

In the construction of this Board alone, if I be not widely mistaken, we shall find the principal source of the calamities of our armies. That men so unacquainted with foreign service, and with hot climates, should have been placed in situations, in which it becomes their duty to decide respecting the medical operations of those who attend armies under circumstances the most prolific of disease, is obviously a source of more destruction to the British soldier, than pestilence, or famine, or even the swords of the enemy.

That they should be suffered to continue in these situations, their incapacity being palpably shewn, would be an everlasting reproach upon the public spirit and humanity of the country. But it is not simply want of knowledge of hot climates and active service, great as this

consideration ought to be, that unqualifies the present Members of the Medical Board for the duties of their situations. Their negligence or culpable connivance, or both, in respect to the supply, and checking of medicines, form another insuperable objection against these persons. Let facts speak for themselves. The Physician General (See Fifth Report, p. 41), takes no account of the quantity or quality of the medicines inspected by him, nor is any account kept at the Laboratory; nor is it done by any other person. There is no examination of the packages on their arrival at the York Hospital, (See Fifth Report, p. 42), and deficiencies have afterwards been observed in them, when sent abroad. “The Physician General *to whom this branch of the Army Medical management*, (the issues of medicines) seems more peculiarly to belong, takes no part in it.” The Commissioners, say they, “have reason for thinking that there has been great inattention in the assortment of the medicines sent abroad, even when the destination of them could not but have been known.” (*Ibid*). But I have already shewn in respect to the fitting up of the medicine chests that, independent of inattention, the Members of the Medical Board, are, upon their own shewing, unqualified from absolute ignorance, for directing the assortment of medicines, not alone proper for hot climates and foreign expeditions, but even under certain circumstances, of not unfrequent occurrence, for home service. Mr. Young observes, (Fifth Report, p. 43), that, “for troops going to different climates, or to be engaged on services of different descriptions, a difference in the kinds of stores to be provided may be necessary.” Dr. Borland (*Ibid*), “thinks that the medicines have been frequently ill assorted on the services on which he has been employed. In the West Indies, during the last war, he has known that great quantities of useless articles have been accumulated in store

“ whilst the useful articles in different chests have been
 “ exhausted.” And Mr. Young thinks also, that “ the
 “ general arrangement of the medicines sent out with
 “ foreign expeditions is imperfect, many of the articles
 “ not being wanted, according to the modern practice
 “ of the army; nor are they in his opinion properly pro-
 “ portioned:” and he states that whilst he acted as In-
 spector General of Hospitals in the West Indies, under
 General Sir Ralph Abercrombie, “ there were a great
 “ number of articles of medical stores sent out, that ap-
 “ peared to him to be totally unnecessary for Army Me-
 “ dical practice in those Colonies.” “ Under this impres-
 sion he had, in 1798, summoned a Medical Board in the
 West Indies, to report to him what medicines were neces-
 sary for West India practice, which report he transmitted
 to the Surgeon General; but in his answer to our 13th
 Question, he says, that he had frequently occasion to re-
 gret that his communications were not ‘ pointedly’ at-
 tended to. *On application to the Surgeon-General for a
 copy of Mr. Young’s report, he stated to us, that he had
 searched the office for it in vain, and that he was not able
 to procure a duplicate of it from Mr. Young.*” I have
 been informed, that the assortment of medicines has been
 at times so improper, that large quantities have been
 shipped as useless from the West Indies to be sold in
 America: and it has not been uncommon to ship immense
 quantities of medicines (bark, for instance, as if destined
 for the fens of Lincolnshire) to the Cape of Good Hope,
 where there is scarcely any disease.—Nor was the selec-
 tion more improper than the quantities were enormous.

We even find it unblushingly avowed that old medi-
 cines are frequently reissued.

Q. “ Are medicines *returned from abroad* ever re-
 issued?

A. By Sir Lucas Pepys. “ *Yes, continually.*” (See
 5th Report, p. 101.

Mr. Griffiths, who was for a considerable time Surgeon at the York Hospital, being asked his opinion on the quality and assortment of the medicines and materials during that period, answers;—"The quality was very various; at times the medicines were very bad. On the 7th of August, 1801, I reported to the Surgeon-General that many of the medicines were unfit for use, and produced samples of them to him, in consequence of which the Surgeon-General directed a Board of Medical Officers, of which Dr. Rogerson, the Physician to the Hospital, was President, to assemble and inspect the medicines. The Board reported, that the articles stated by me were bad and unfit for use, and that many others which had escaped my notice were in a similar state." (5th Report, p. 229, Q. 3.) No trace of Dr. Rogerson's report could be discovered at the Medical Board Office. (See pages 229, 230.) It was not among the survivors.

Mr. Griffith further states;—"Whilst I was attending the York Hospital, the Surgeon-General gave me two samples of opium, one given him by the Surgeon of the Pembrokehire Militia, the other by the Surgeon of the Sutherland Fencibles, which had been sent to them from the Army Laboratory *as pure opium*, but which, on examining, I found one to be apparently *damaged opium confection*; and as to the other, I could *form no conjecture what it was*". (5th Report, p. 229, Q. 8.) The Surgeon of the West Suffolk Militia, it seems, also complained of the quality of the bark furnished by the Army Laboratory, of which he sent a specimen to the Army Medical Board. The Board most complaisantly sent the specimen to the Apothecary-General's Deputy, who most sagaciously sent it for examination to *two of his friends*, Dr. Burgess, Senior Physician to St. George's Hospital; and Dr. Brand, Apothecary to the Queen. The former, as *far as his taste and*

experience could carry him, was confident the bark was as good as could be procured; and the letter could not hesitate a moment in saying, that he thought it excellent. These *unbiassed* opinions were sent back to the Medical Board, who tasted them, and found them excellent; and the Surgeon of the West Suffolk Militia was condemned to swallow them, and his patients to swallow bad bark, under the pains and penalty of his being found a most troublesome and disagreeable fellow.

Now I must particularly solicit the attention of the reader to these circumstances, which although apparently trivial, will be found to mark the character of the Army Medical Board, and of the whole establishment, more distinctly than circumstances of much greater moment. Here we find that *three* Surgeons of *Militia* and *Fencible* Regiments have the audacity to complain of the badness of the medicines with which they are furnished by the Apothecary-General, while it does not appear that a *single Surgeon of the line* has had the temerity to do the like. Now it must either have happened that *all* the bad medicines were sent to the *Militia* Regiments, and only *good ones* to the Regiments of *the line*, or that the Surgeons of the *Militia* Regiments, being more independent of the Medical Board, had conceived themselves entitled more freely to exercise their right of remonstrance against poisoning their patients. The Medical Board could not affect their promotion. These facts do not require a comment. They are a folio, in illustration of the tyranny, rapacity, and injustice which have prevailed in this devoted department.

So gross is the ignorance, or so great the neglect of the Medical Board, that supplies of certain drugs have not unfrequently been sent to places, of which or the vicinity they are the growth; a blunder which any tyro in medicine, who had ever read the Edinburgh or Dublin

Dispensatories, or even the London Pharmacopœia, might blush to have committed.—For example:—

“ From Dr. Yates, who passed through the regular
 “ steps in the Medical service of the East India Com-
 “ pany in India, and was garrison Surgeon at Point de
 “ Galle, in the Island of Ceylon, for seven years; we
 “ learn, that whilst at that garrison he had an opportu-
 “ nity of observing a large investment of medicines con-
 “ signed to Ceylon, when he noted several articles in
 “ large quantities, which he deemed of little or no use
 “ in that country; and he afterwards heard from the
 “ Medical Superintendant of Hospitals in the island,
 “ that some of the useful and efficient articles were in
 “ small quantities, and that others were sent out of which
 “ an abundance could have been procured in the island,
 “ such as sago, sugar, &c. On an inspection of the
 “ Apothecary-Generals bills for 1804 and 1805, we find
 “ large quantities of opium charged as sent to Ceylon,
 “ an article which could have been obtained in that
 “ island, we presume at a small expence compared with
 “ the price charged by the Apothecary-General.” (See
 5th Report, p. 43.)

Large quantities of wine have been sent to North America, where, as was known to every one but the Surgeon-General, it could have been got at less than half the price it was purchased for in England. So much has the mania of patronage taken possession of the Medical Board, that they must extend it even to the Wine Merchants, at however costly a rate to the country. “ We
 “ notice,” say the Commissioners, “ eight pipes of port
 “ wine sent to Gibraltar, in September, 1796, and which
 “ are charged in Mr. Delamaine’s account, at 78*l.* per
 “ pipe,” (see 5th Report, p. 256,) as if port wine could
 not be got for less than half this price at Gibraltar. Mr. Keate, with his usual low cunning and effrontery, en-

deavours to place this piece of *æconomy* at the door of the Secretary at War. "This wine," says he, "was expressly ordered by the Secretary at War, &c." (See 5th Report, p. 256) Every one however must be aware, that in this the Secretary at War could only have acted at the instigation of the Surgeon-General.

After so many absurdities it ought not to surprise us if, upon a minute inspection, we were to find charges for sugar and molasses sent to Jamaica, Peruvian bark to South America, oatmeal to Scotland, and crutches to Ceylon. I find it is not easy, even on so solemn a subject, to preserve a becoming gravity.

That men, at once so ignorant and so careless, should be so long suffered arbitrarily to preside over a department of the greatest importance to the state, dictating even the practice to men of superior experience, education and talents, is a circumstance that cannot be too deeply deplored.—Here it may not be improper to point out a few instances of the ridiculous folly and presumption of this interference. Disdaining to await the result of the experiment, the Members of the Medical Board have, because it was the fashion, I presume, ordered the Surgeons of Regiments to practice vaccination universally*, although it has been proved, over and over again, to be no security against small-pox†, and for having the good sense to omit this practice, was not Mr. Garratt, Surgeon of the 14th Regiment, obliged to quit the army? They have, so great is their desire of dictation, even laid down a formula for treating the itch‡, a disease of which every young Hospital Mate from Scotland must have more practical knowledge than them-

* "The inoculation of the cow-pox is to be constantly practised." See Medical Observer, vol. iv. p. 84.

† Ibid, vol. iii, iv, v, and vi.

‡ See Medical Observer, vol. iv. p. 81.

selves.—“ The patients should be *shaved* at least twice a week, &c.*” Again, “ The Surgeon is expected to confine his practice to the medicine chest (as per invoice) now in use†.” The former were only ridiculous, but this last regulation is seriously mischievous. If the Medical Board, indeed, could have laid down a set of principles by which diseases were to be invariably cured, such a restriction might have had common sense. But as almost every regimental Surgeon in the service has much more experience of army diseases than the Medical Board, and is able to guess much better what diseases will happen, and to judge of what quantity of medicines will be required for those diseases, the restriction is much worse than being devoid of common sense. While no restriction can prevent ignorance from doing mischief, this will render it impossible for men of experience and judgment to perform their duty, according to the knowledge which they have acquired.

The second principle on which I shall prove the unfitness of the actual Members of the Medical Board for their situations, is the strong disposition or alacrity at jobbing, which they have shewn, not only in the whole detail of their operations, but even in the very wording of their Rules. In the exercise of their authority they seem to consider themselves unfettered by any common rules of limited discretion, in so much that, judging merely by the improper promotions which they have made, and the proper ones which they have omitted to make, one would infer they had considered the establishment as having for its sole object the conferring of patronage upon themselves. In every branch of public service, candidates for employment naturally expect that, with industry, education, talents and morals unimpeached, seniority will be the rule of promotion. What then must be the

* See Medical Observer, vol. iv. p. 82.

† Ibid, vol. iv. p. 86.

disappointment of persons entering the medical department of the army on finding that a liberal education, professional talents, length of service, or integrity in the discharge of their duty, have so little weight; and that promotion so much depends upon the servility, and obsequiousness of the candidate on the one hand, and the interest and caprice of his patrons on the other? Has a similar partiality ever been manifested by this Board in favour of extraordinary fitness? Can there be a reader who requires to be informed, that, in every service in which the right of seniority is totally disregarded, the whole will necessarily become a system of vile favoritism, and abject servility? Is there any one who does not perceive that, under such a system, all attention to public good will be swallowed up by the more interesting duty of surpassing in homage, and adulation, to the source of preferment, and that this line of service will of course be the chief study of those who would rise? It is too much to expect from human nature that it should long remain entirely proof against the debasing effects of this species of influence. Accordingly under such a system, every man, whose mind was not originally corrupt, must consent to abase himself to a certain degree, or suffer the punishment due to inflexibility. In the wording of the wretched regulations, to which they succeeded in procuring the sanction of the Commander in Chief, the Members of the Medical Board, especially Mr. Keate and Mr. Knight, have laid an extensive foundation for their pernicious system. They have very dexterously altogether omitted to state from what description of persons the Staff Surgeons, the Inspectors, and Deputy Inspectors were to be chosen, and what qualifications, from length of service or otherwise, candidates for these offices were required to possess; thus leaving to themselves, in an indirect and tacit manner, an unlimited power over promotions. Accordingly, in these classes, promotions have been uniformly arbitrary.

What a clamour would have been raised, and very justly, in the army, if Military promotions had been conducted with such a total disregard to the claims of seniority and service! And who will say that seniority and length of service are not even of more consequence in the Medical than the Military line? Here, then, we have three obscure individuals, as Members of a Medical Board, daring to exercise a despotism which would not be tolerated, in any other department, from the most illustrious characters in the kingdom!

On the origin and rapid progress of the superfluous offices last mentioned, I shall here make a few remarks. They are appointments for which it does not appear that any regular authority has ever been given. Previous to 1798 there were no Inspectors or Deputy Inspectors in this country. (Vide 5th Report, p. 104.) The duty was performed chiefly by Physicians and Staff-Surgeons; and it was not *confined exclusively to the Inspectorial class until the year 1802*. (Vide 5th Report, p. 158.) It is not till 1804 that we find this class of officers even *virtually* acknowledged by any lawful authority, being then mentioned as it were incidentally, and *only* with respect to their pay*. “We are unable to say when, or on what authority, rank and pay superior to the Army Physicians were given to Inspectors, &c.” say the Physician and Surgeon General. (Vide Fifth Report, p. 158, App. No. 22)†. “It is to be observed,” says the Surgeon General, “that *recommendation* of Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors *is not noticed* in the late arrangement, (1804), and was *therefore* made by the Board,” (which *Board*, recollect, had been

* Vide his Majesty’s warrant for increasing the advantages and improving the situation of the Medical Officers of the Army, published in the Medical Observer, vol. iii p. 353.

† Pretty fellows to constitute a department.

abolished in 1798, before the introduction of Inspectors): but of late it is (we are not informed by what authority), with the Inspector General. (See Fifth Report, p. 109.) "The numbers," says the Inspector-General, (See Fifth Report, p. 113, answer to Query 10), "are limited to what the War Office and Commander in Chief choose to grant upon MY representation, and their distribution rests upon MY recommendation." In all this we see nothing but a nefarious job contrived by Mr. Knight in his own favour, and imposed upon the War Office. We admit his dexterity, in holding the Secretary at War, and Commander in Chief, between him and responsibility. But this stratagem will not avail him. What could the War Office, or the Commander in Chief, know of the propriety or impropriety of such appointments, but through his representation, or misrepresentation? And who could give authority to the War Office, or Commander in Chief, to sanction appointments not previously existing, whether good or bad?

The Medical Board, in constructing their regulations, did not appear to consider it sufficient to have left to themselves the power of superceding *senior* officers by *junior* ones of the *same class*, but they must have the still more odious power of superceding officers of the *higher* classes, by those of the *lower* ones. By this contrivance Mr. Keate might choose his Staff Surgeons from Hospital Mates; and Mr. Knight might not only supercede Sir Lucas Pepys's College Physicians, and Mr. Keate's Staff Surgeons, but he might choose his Inspectors from any of the subordinate classes. Mr. Knight, indeed says, "that he *always* SELECTS those Officers from the Staff or Regimental Surgeons." (See Fifth Report, p. 113). But this is so far from being correct, that we know that at least, besides the classes mentioned, Physicians to the Forces have been appointed Inspectors, when

such a measure has suited the particular views of the Inspector-General. Dr. Moore, at the Isle of Wight, after being for a short time a Physician to the Forces, was made a full Inspector. Dr. Frank, and another fresh from College, were made Inspectors in the Mediterranean, and, as such, superceded officers of equal education, and much greater experience. What then is to prevent Mr. Knight from taking his Inspectors from the Assistant Surgeons, or Hospital Mates, if found to answer the purpose? He may, it is true, occasionally find among them men of greater experience and better education, than some of those whom he has had occasion to promote from the higher ranks.

Is it not a singular circumstance, that although the pay of the first class (Inspectors) be *double* that of the Physicians, *no length of service is necessary to qualify them for the appointment*; nor indeed any qualification beside being in favour with Mr. Knight? Dr. Bancroft, in his Letter to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, (p. 89), says, “It has happened, as the Inspector General, Mr. Knight, can, if he pleases, testify
“ in one instance at least, that very deficient persons,
“ who could scarcely write even a single line of English
“ correctly, have had the health of considerable armies
“ committed to them.” At the same time, therefore, that the giving to these officers superior rank and pay, tends to degrade the rank of Physician to the Army, it cannot be supposed to have operated as an inducement to Gentlemen of ability to enter originally into the service, or an encouragement to them to continue in it. Men of this description have too much pride to stoop to the servile and degrading means, which, under a corrupt system, are best calculated to procure a perference of promotion.—Nothing can be a more complete exemplification of the artifices resorted to by the Medical Board, in order to perfect the facility of jobbing than the

appointment of that *lusus naturæ*, which they have called a *Principal Medical Officer*, (a pretty Jesuitical term) whom the Surgeon General recommends; for the warrant of Principal Medical Officer confers on the officer to whom it is given, *whatever be his rank or length of service, a local rank superior even to the Inspector*. (See Fifth Report, p. 86). An Assistant Surgeon, or an Hospital Mate, without one grain of sense or experience, might, at the whim of Mr. Keate, or by the influence of a favorite, be put in a situation to command Physicians and Inspectors of experience, sense, and education. What an admirable system! What encouragement to Gentlemen of talents and liberal education to *enter into and continue in the service!*

To exemplify these cases:—We find Mr. North, village Apothecary and Man-midwife at Chelsea, and actually Deputy to Mr. Graham, Apothecary to Chelsea Hospital, (no imputation is meant on the character of the individual) Principal Medical Officer at the York Hospital, having a *Fellow of the College of Physicians* (Dr. Morris) under his command!! It is quite natural that Mr. Keate and Mr. Knight should retain a fellow-feeling for Apothecaries and Men-midwives. But why does not Sir Lucas Pepys assert the rights and support the dignity of *his order?*

A very palpable instance of the mischievous tendency of this singular inversion of all ancient rules will be found in the case of Dr. Gordon and Mr. Grant, detailed in the subjoined proceedings of a Court Martial held on the former of these gentlemen, in the year 1804, for resisting, as it was obviously his duty to do, this most preposterous and unnatural supercession.

At Bury St. Edmunds, in 1803, (Fifth Report, p. 195) and at Plymouth, in 1806, (Fifth Report, p. 193) *Purveyors* were Principal Medical Officers, commanding *Physicians and Staff Surgeons!!!*

At Gosport, at Deal, and at Dunmow, (see Fifth Rep. pages 193, 195,) *Staff Surgeons* were Principal Medical Officers, commanding *Physicians*!

For this strange Officer, the Physician and Surgeon-General appear long to have been unable to find an appropriate name.—“ He was first called the *Superintendent*, then the *Senior*, then the *Head*, and ultimately “ *Principal Medical Officer*.” (See Fifth Report, p. 182). They took this droll fellow indiscriminately, they say, from “ Physicians, Surgeons, Apothecarys, or even “ Hospital Mates, *if found to answer the purpose*, as was “ the case formerly at the York Hospital.” (*Ibid*).

The reasons which these sagacious gentlemen assign for this singular species of appointment are truly curious, and, I should think, novel:—“ It was found to be extremely inconvenient, upon the frequent ordering of “ Medical Officers to foreign duties, that the *Head* “ should suddenly quit so important a charge as that of “ a General Hospital, to the duties of which he had applied himself, and *was beginning to have a knowledge of, &c.*” (*Ibid*).

Plain common sense would teach us that no Medical Officer should be appointed *head* of an hospital, who was only *beginning* to have a knowledge of its duties; and that every Medical Officer, who is of a rank and standing in the service to entitle him to such a charge, should be perfectly qualified for its duties, by having previously served in the subordinate situations. Absurdity is the invariable result of attempting to give a false colouring to what only admits of one, and that a very plain interpretation.

From these extraordinary facts, it is impossible to draw any other conclusion than that the Members of the Medical Board have made patronage almost the sole business of their lives. So completely have they considered themselves as having an absolute right to direct

promotion at their pleasure, that, of late years at least, unless the system has been altered since the terror of enquiry has hung over their heads, not an individual has been known to be promoted in the due course of seniority, *even by chance*. If this be a mistake, the Board “do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame.” They have the means of refutation in their own hands. Let them publish a list of the Medical Department, (a thing which has never been done) with the dates of the respective appointments and promotions which have taken place since the present Members have been in office. In this way it will be easy for them, if they are misrepresented, to convince the world of their own purity, and the injustice of their accusers.

But in the mean time we shall adduce evidence founded upon such facts as are in our possession. To begin with the Members of the Medical Board:—

It has been shewn that none of them have ever been in hot climates, or on active service, and that the Physician-General was not even in the army, previous to his receiving that appointment. I may now observe, with respect to the Surgeon-General, and Inspector-General, that besides the strong disqualifying circumstances already mentioned, there are many Surgeons in the service of longer standing, as well as more ability and experience, serving in subordinate situations, some of them, by a piece of unparalleled injustice, as half-pay district Surgeons, on the miserable pittance of 5s. a day.

Throughout the subordinate departments the Members of the Medical Board have uniformly and faithfully acted upon the system of favoritism. Accordingly we find that while there may be Hospital Mates (the lowest degree of Medical rank) of thirty years standing in the army*, a great part of the time perhaps serving in hot climates,

* Brown in America.

there may be Inspectors of Hospitals (the next in rank to the Medical Board) of only a few years standing, who have never known the hardships of a single campaign *. I say, whether the practice has frequently gone to this extreme degree of injustice, or not, the system of the Medical Board does fully admit of it. What were the peculiar merits of Inspectors Borland, R. Keate, Bailie, and Somerville †, that they should have been so rapidly raised to the higher ranks above the heads of senior, and certainly not less deserving officers? The Commissioners of Military Enquiry, from some extraordinary inadvertence, not wilful I am persuaded, have omitted to call on the Medical Board for a list of appointments, and promotions, with their respective dates, since the present Members have been in office, as if acts of partiality and injustice committed in these respects were considered of less consequence than the pecuniary abuses of the establishment, or rather as if they were considered of no consequence at all, but things that ought to be entirely dependent on the will and pleasure of the Army Medical Board. We know that the Commissioners have in many matters of lesser moment been notoriously, although innocently, misled, by the tools of Mr. Knight,

* Mr. Inspector R. Keate. This nephew of the Surgeon-General, according to my information, never was out of the kingdom, was originally in the purveying line, and did not go through the regular gradations in the service.

† This latter gentleman was appointed Garrison Surgeon at the Cape of Good Hope, from being one of the youngest of the Hospital Mates. He was, besides, an extra Aid-de-Camp to the Commander in Chief, superintendent of the Dutch Companies Public Works and Buildings; and Clerk to the Court of Appeals. Upon his return to Europe, this youth, being first duly initiated at the Office in Berkeley-street, into the mysteries of Mr. Knight's æconomising system, and all the other arcana necessary to constitute a dexterous Deputy Inspector of Hospitals, was happily elevated to that rank, after the experience of full half a dozen years in the service, and has now the principal superintendence of the health and lives of his Majesty's Forces in Canada!

respecting the utility of the Inspectorial System, as well as by the evidence of the Members of the Medical Board. But I confess it appears to me singular that any arts of misrepresentation could have rendered them so completely blind to the pernicious consequences of the system of partiality and injustice, in respect to appointments and promotions, as never to have thought it necessary to make a single enquiry on the subject. I do assert that, to this source alone (arbitrary and improper appointments and promotions) we owe a very great proportion of the deaths which have happened in the army, and consequently the loss, not to consider the lives of his Majesty's subjects under any other point of view, of millions of the public money*.

It is notorious that Assistant-Surgeons have been frequently appointed to regiments, without having been Hospital Mates, and Surgeons to corps without having served in either of the subordinate capacities, notwithstanding the general order, which says:—"Assistant-Surgeons shall be taken from amongst the Hospital Mates, and Surgeons of Regiments from the Assistant Surgeons." Not only have Staff Surgeons, as I have said, been made from Hospital Mates, but even from persons who were not previously in the army! Were not

* I do not pretend to judge how far the mistakes of the Medical Board, in the returns which have been demanded of them, and which they have been pleased to make to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, be wilful or accidental. But it seems rather extraordinary, that in several instances the same names should be found both in the full-pay and half-pay lists. (See Fifth Report of the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, p. 156). Among others; T. Nicolay, J. P. Hill, Staff Surgeons; C. T. Aveling, C. Maypothor, Deputy Purveyors.—Even if we can suppose such errors to happen without any pecuniary detriment to the public, they at least argue an unpardonable negligence, and therefore an extreme unfitness for their situations, on the part of the Members of the Army Medical Board.

the Pupils of St. George's Hospital always preferred? Was this because they were persons of superior skill, or because their fees, as Pupils of that Hospital, went partly into Mr. Keate's pockets? We know the pretext was, that they were good operative Surgeons; but besides that, other hospitals afford as good Surgeons as St. George's, we want men who can *save* limbs in preference to men who can only *amputate* them. Let the *surviving* Registers of the Medical Board, and the Gazettes be produced, and they will furnish abundant proof of all that I have asserted*.

Under the operation of such a profligate system, so openly and undisguisedly acted upon, we may conceive what is likely to be the fate of unfortunate patients. How frequently must it happen that some young favourite, taken from the schools, backed by family interest or personal connections, and promoted, in the short space of a few months, through the various gradations, to the highest rank, shall find himself in the chief superintendence of an hospital, without any practical knowledge of the various important duties of such a station? Unfortunately this is not always a matter of supposition; for the case must happen as often as young College Physicians are placed in the superintendence of Military Hospitals. But this subject will fall more properly to be considered, when we come to treat of the organization of the establishment.

So much has the system of arbitrary and interested selection been a matter of course, and so totally have pretensions founded on experience or service been disregarded, that, if I might instance my own case, I have,

* A complaisant conflagration happened in the Army Medical Board Office, in the year 1803, when *many criminal* as well and *some innocent* vouchers, are reported to have perished in the flames.

when a candidate for promotion, been very gravely asked, by the Surgeon-General, as *the most material circumstance to be known*, WHO RECOMMENDED ME? Is it not surprising, that the Medical Gentlemen of the Army should not, long ere now, as a public body, have made representations to the higher authorities, of the grievances under which they have laboured, and the indignities with which they have been treated? But from the cautious suppression of the dates of appointments and promotions, it becomes difficult, or impossible, for most Medical men, particularly those on foreign stations, to know even to what extent their rights and interests may have been disregarded.

It might appear sufficient on this subject, to assert, that *all* the promotions in the Medical department of the Army have been *improper*, because *none of them* have been guided by the principle of seniority; and that while Physicians to the Army are allowed to be taken from civil life, it is a gross inconsistency on the part of Sir Lucas Pepys, which can only be accounted for by supposing an understanding between them unfavorable to the interests of the public, to suffer Mr. Knight to appoint Inspectors from any other class than the Physicians.

The following fact will shew the extreme absurdity of these arrangements, if things which are pernicious may be called absurd. A few months ago, Dr. Jackson (an Inspector of Hospitals), was to have a Medical appointment to the Spanish armies, and to proceed with General Romana to Spain. The Medical Board, as I have been informed, uncalled upon, and if so, most impertinently, interfered to prevent it. The ground of their objections, it is said, was his being *illiterate*! If that ground were just, with what consistency did they formerly appoint this *illiterate* man an Inspector, in which capacity he would command Physicians to the Forces, in whom lite-

rary attainment is deemed an indispensable qualification? If their objection lay to his practice, which the Physician and Surgeon-General once professed, why do they not remonstrate upon the same ground, against the Inspector-General, who, as well as his Deputy, Dr. Borland, are mere imitators of Dr. Jackson, in the very worst parts of his practice? Why do Sir Lucas Pepys and Mr. Keate suffer these imitators of Dr. Jackson to dictate a practice to Regimental Surgeons, for which he was removed by themselves from the Isle of Wight? Would they do this if they had the good of the army at heart? I will leave this Board to explain, if they can, the rationality of their conduct, and to repel the suspicion of criminal neglect, and ignorance of the very elements of their duty, which must arise, on the perusal of these facts, in every readers mind.

Is it not an intolerable absurdity that Mr. Knight's Inspectors, taken from inferior stations, with perhaps inferior educations, should be considered as entitled to direct Physicians, and to controul or regulate their practice? In 1804 there was a Physician to the army, serving as such upon the Staff, who had been thirty-six years in the service, having been a Regimental Surgeon, and passed through the usual gradations.

An officer of this standing, one should suppose, would be entitled to promotion and consideration. But we shall presently see that he was one of the objects particularly selected for persecution by the Medical Board. (See the annexed Proceedings on the Court Martial of Dr. R. Gordon).

What must have been this Gentleman's sensations, on having boy Inspectors, or that droll fellow, called a Principal Medical Officer, as actually happened, placed over his head, to command him, and to *regulate his prescriptions*! Such absurdities can scarcely escape the ani-

madversions of an idiot. This is taking the Board upon their own regulations, by which they have imposed upon the public, and shewing their absurdity upon their own principles.

I have already had occasion to shew that those principles, as they respect all their patronage, but especially that of Sir Lucas Pepys and Mr. Knight, are radically wrong. But even this is not enough; it is not enough that the system, which they themselves have formed, should be absurd and contradictory; but they must have recourse to appointments which are, if possible, a disgrace even to that system, and to their own conduct.

It is generally understood that persons may at this moment be found enjoying half-pay at the public expence, whose principal recommendation was having had the honour of serving some Member of the Medical Board in a menial capacity!

A Member of this Board has been openly accused of receiving presents for the performance of conditions which he neglected to fulfil, and of paying a sum of money for quashing an action on this ground. The Board has been publicly accused, or rather convicted of connivance at peculation and fraud, and the suppression of false vouchers; and they have not even attempted a reply.

After this, who will credit them, if they should assert that they have not also been guilty of jobbing and other scandalous practices? Will that exquisite piece of prudery, played off by the Inspector General, on commencing his official career, persuade any man who knows him, and knows the world, that the department has improved in purity since his accession to the triumvirate? In a notice, posted up shortly after the inauguration of this gentleman, it was stated, that, "*in future*, any person "*presuming to offer bribes at this office* should incur "*the displeasure of the Medical Board, &c.*"—A pretty plain insinuation, that *previous* to that period such

practices had been considered as not uncommon. This is a delicate compliment of Mr. Knight to his colleagues. Had he added "unless the *amount* be satisfactory to the "Board," there would have been more of candour in the declaration. The Inspector-General, no doubt meant to insinuate (pure soul) that *he* was to bestow his favours on the worthy only. Let us consider the subject as men of the world. In this commercial country, a situation worth 1000*l.* a year is not usually given away without a consideration. Mr. Knight has got the patronage, as it is called, of various situations, the income of which is equal to fifty thousand pounds a year. Is this man's disinterestedness so proverbial that he can be supposed to have bestowed all these places without regard to any other consideration than fitness, even according to his own ideas of medical ability? But laying individual character out of the question, it is a scandal in medicine, above all other professions, that the highest situations should be thus at the arbitrary disposal of one man; and those too worse than useless situations, surreptitiously introduced into the service by that individual, for the sole purpose of creating patronage for himself.

As an example of the purity with which these appointments are sometimes made, I shall here state that a person, after having been disgracefully dismissed for peculation from the Ordnance department, was successively made Deputy-Inspector, Inspector, and Inspector-General of Hospitals in the West Indies, and retained in that situation not only after the Medical Board had been made acquainted with his dismissal from the Ordnance, (if they could have been originally ignorant of it), but after charges of peculation had been repeatedly brought against him in their own service, and as often quashed; and that, in support of this person, they caused the officer bringing the charges to be superceded without a

trial, while the person accused, instead of being tried and, if found guilty, punished, has been put upon the half-pay of 1*l.* per diem. These cases shall be detailed at greater length.

If it should appear in evidence that none of the Members of the Medical Board could have been ignorant of these facts, will they not stand convicted of conniving at, and abetting peculation and fraud?

As a specimen of the gross and bare-faced manner, in which the *partic'ity* of the Medical Board has been manifested, in the inspectorial appointments, not to speak of *other motives*, I shall give a letter of Mr. Knight's (Fifth Report, p. 130) to the Deputy Secretary at War, on the subject of Mr. R. Keate and Dr. Borland's promotions:—

Army Medical Board Office,
Aug. 19, 1806.

SIR,

“ I am honored with your communication of
“ the 11th inst. by which I learn that the Lords of the
“ Treasury have not been pleased to fall in with the
“ proposal of my letter of the 22d June, respecting ad-
“ ditional Inspectors, from an unwillingness to increase
“ the established number of that department on the
“ Home Staff: to their Lordship's decision on this point,
“ I am bound to submit; nor should I presume to renew
“ the application, if it did not appear that the rejection
“ of my proposal was founded on a mis-conception of
“ what I meant to state, and should, perhaps, at the
“ first have more clearly explained: that deficiency I
“ now beg leave to supply.

“ The appointments to the Inspectorial department
“ are not governed by any *established number*, they are
“ limited to the necessities of the service (*of which Mr.*
“ *Knight is the Judge*), and are occasionally increased or
“ reduced by that principle. It was by such *special*

“ *urgency* that I was more particularly guided in my late
 “ recommendation of Dr. Borland, who as *my* deputy in
 “ office, is frequently employed to officiate *for me* on
 “ missions to different parts of the kingdom, where the
 “ rank and authority should be *correspondent to the un-*
 “ *dertaking*, and superior to those officers whom he is to
 “ controul. I trust that the Commander in Chief and
 “ Secretary at War, will on such grounds see the pro-
 “ priety of bringing the subject once more, before the
 “ Lords of the Treasury, and that their Lordships will
 “ favourably consider the same.”

The Lords of the Treasury, it would appear were per-
 suaded, against their better judgment, to accede to this
 proposition, and Messrs. R. Keate and Borland were
 made full Inspectors. Now, the only *known* effect of
 these promotions, which Mr. Knight represented as so
urgent, was to give to these gentlemen a considerable
 addition of income. Their promotion could not possibly
 produce any favorable effect upon the service. They
 were already the *Senior Deputy* Inspectors; the simple
 act of transferring them to the situation of *Junior full*
 Inspectors, could not therefore confer any comparative
 increase of rank or authority on them (the pretext al-
 leged by Mr. Knight) although it gave them much
 comparative increase of pay, to the injury, disgust, and
 indignation of senior, and more experienced officers.

If this be not jobbing, I desire to know what the
 word means.

According to Mr. Knight, the recommendations to
 appointments in the Inspectorial department are entirely
 guided by *his* judgment of the necessities of the service.
 Now we shall suppose that, instead of a pure and im-
 maculate gentleman like Mr. Knight, we had a needy
 or an avaricious Inspector-General, whenever he wanted
 a few thousand pounds, it would only be necessary for him

to recommend, from motives of "*special urgency*," the appointment of a few additional Inspectors. Each Inspectorship, calculating the value at only one year's purchase, is worth 1000*l.* and, if set up to auction, would no doubt bring much more. Thus it would be a favour to give the appointment to a *friend* even at a *regulated* price : and the sale of the office would be still perfectly compatible with patronage.

The same reasoning applies with equal force to the appointments of Physicians to the Army, Staff Surgeons, and all the Subordinate Ranks. The late Dr. Yates, as is the custom, had been put upon Sir Lucas Pepys's list, as a candidate for the situation of Physician to the Forces;—a situation for which, from experience and talents, he possessed much more than the ordinary degree of fitness. But in the qualifications which were more especially required, it seems he was deficient. *He was not a Member of the College.* Upon the prospect of a vacancy occurring, this was plainly stated to him by Sir Lucas Pepys, who added that: "as soon as he had *qualified*, he should be appointed." That is, in plain English, as soon as he had paid from fifty to eighty pounds to be emancipated from the College of Surgeons, (of which, as a Surgeon in the East India Company's service, he was necessarily a member) and from seventy to a hundred pounds more, for being admitted a licentiate of the College of Physicians, he should then, being specifically lighter from having emptied his pockets, be *considered as duly qualified* to run about the world (*hic et ubique terrarum*) prescribing for his Majesty's Forces. Let us examine a little into the secret of these curious qualifications. Sir Lucas, like Scrub in the play, has a variety of parts to perform. He is Physician General to the Army, President of the College of Physicians, and Chairman (shall we call it?) of the National Vaccine Institution. These characters must mutually support

each other. As Physician General to the Army, by accepting no Physician into his domain, who is not a Member of the College, he contributes, in as far as the voice of the Army Physicians go, to prop that antiquated establishment. As President of the College, he can facilitate the admission of *proper* persons; and impede the entrance of *improper* persons into the Army; so that his Majesty's Forces shall have the advantage of being treated according to the pure, unmixed principles of Warwick-lane.

But it is possible, as we have seen, that the President's ideas of proper persons may be very erroneous, and give rise to much serious injustice.

I have heard it rumoured, that a Dr. Bowles was once *turned back* or *turned down* (I do not know which) at the College, and that it so happened that one of the Censors, or other Members, who *assisted* at his examination, was *immediately afterwards* appointed to the office which he was to have filled.

This, if the statement be correct, is an instance of the manner in which the most gross injustice may be committed with impunity by a secret Conclave. But whether it has or has not happened to Dr. Bowles, we know that, from the constitution of the College, and their present connection with the Medical Board, such a thing *may* happen to any man. The recent refusal of the London College to admit Dr. Mackinnon*, a gentleman pronounced by the University of Edinburgh to be qualified, I consider as not only a piece of flagrant injustice towards that gentleman individually, but a gross insult to the most celebrated Medical School in the universe. It is an insult which that University cannot, without the deepest dishonour, overlook. It is plainly telling them:

* See the Medical Observer, Vol. vi. p. 275.

“ You are not judges of Medical fitness, and we shall
 “ reject as unqualified those whom you pronounce
 “ worthy of the highest Academic honours.” Thus
 we have the extraordinary phenomenon of a College,
not authorised to teach medicine, setting themselves up as
better judges of Medical qualification than an University,
whose principal functions consist in imparting Medical in-
struction annually to thousands of Pupils!! If this most
 unprincipled precedent be suffered to remain, we may
 expect that, in future, not a man from the other side of
 the Tweed will gain admission into the London College,
 even without the disqualifying circumstance of having a
Mac to his name. I am heartily rejoiced at it. I wish
 they may be refused even the degrading situation of
Permissi, with which they have so long had the mean-
 ness to be content.

From the connection which, unhappily for his Ma-
 jesty's subjects, exists between the College and the Me-
 dical Board, and the relation in which it has been my
 lot to stand with respect to both, I trust I shall be ex-
 cused on this occasion, for introducing those bodies as
 connected, and for saying more than would otherwise be
 becoming of myself. Nor will this, perhaps, be deemed
 a superfluous digression, when I declare that I consider
 the observations I am going to make as a necessary mea-
 sure of self-defence against moral assassination. It is now
 two years since, urged by their oppressive conduct to-
 wards individuals, I engaged in controversy with the
 College. Upon examining the Charter and Acts of Par-
 liament, by which they were incorporated, I could not
 find that, antiquated and obsolete as these are, they ever
 conferred that arbitrary and extensive authority to which
 the College in modern days have presumed to lay claim.
 Their principal privileges, especially that which limits
 the Fellowship to Graduates of Oxford and Cambridge,
 I therefore considered as a pure usurpation;—their exa-

minations in secret conclave as calculated chiefly to enable them with impunity to reject a Boerhaave or a Sydenham*, whose talents might be obnoxious, and to admit every consummate blockhead, whose stupidity might not be disagreeable; — their establishment of a class under the denomination of Licentiates (*Permissi*), an insult, no less than an injury, to the Universities of Scotland, in which class it is in my opinion a degradation to the Graduates of those Universities to suffer themselves to be enrolled. Upon these grounds, without feeling the smallest animosity, personally, towards any Member of the London College, but deeming it to be in its tendency the very worst and most pernicious institution existing; I resolved, as alone consistent with the dignity of an independent medical man, never to accept, upon any condition, of a situation among them, while they remain under their present regulations; but on the contrary, that I should constantly oppose and expose them †, either alone or in conjunction with such as may be willing, on liberal and enlightened principles, to unite for the purpose of effecting by that means the desirable object of a medical reform. On this subject, it has been objected to me by one of the most liberal of their own Members, that the effect of too severe an exposure would be to induce the College to cling with additional fondness to their errors. I believe it, unless they were men of more than ordinary mental energy, as well as dis-

* The disparaging opinion expressed of this great man, by Dr. Bancroft, a Fellow of the College, and one of Sir Lucas Pepys's Army Physicians, while it does him honor coming from such a source, we may presume to be the voice of the leading Members of the Conclave. When I say leading Members, I would be understood to mean those who are the most active in managing the concerns of the Corporation, and in general the least respectable in learning and professional endowments. Men of discernment will easily judge of the spirit which animates this body, when they see a Pepys placed in the chair in preference to a Millman or a Reynolds.

† In the Medical Observer.

interestedness. But it can scarcely be necessary to say that it is not from the College, but through the public, and the Legislature, that I expect any favorable change to be effected in the profession of Medicine: and with this view, I shall continue for two years longer, if that should be necessary, periodically to display the baneful consequences of this singular monopoly of three centuries.

Having stated these circumstances, I beg the reader to be assured that any different interpretation or representation of my motives and conduct with respect to the College, (with which I have never personally had any collision), which it may be thought expedient or politic to whisper abroad, ought not to be considered as entitled to the smallest credit.

The case of Dr. Yates, as already related, distinctly shews the little ceremony with which Sir Lucas Pepys has thought proper to supercede his Majesty's Regulations of 1804, by requiring that admission to the College should be an indispensable qualification for the office of Physician to the Forces. Even the examination at the Army Medical Board by the Physician-General and two Army Physicians, prescribed as a substitute by these regulations, of Gentlemen who had already sufficient testimonials from regular Universities, is a degradation which ought not to be required of any man, and to which such men as Dr. Wright and Dr. Yates would not readily submit: they would have preferred even the insolent alternative of becoming *Permissi* (licentiates) of the College. But we shall not be surprised at the pertinacity with which Sir Lucas Pepys, as *Physician-General*, has adhered to this regulation, when we reflect on the various ways in which it tends to support his influence and authority as *President of the College*. Besides augmenting in the army the influence of the Collegiate *esprit du corps*, it has the effect of recruiting the exhausted funds of that establish-

ment and making provision for its unemployed Members.

We have now to consider Sir Lucas in another capacity: As Chairman of the Vaccinators, he will procure the support of *numbers* to the other establishments. There may be some who will not blame Sir Lucas Pepys, as a man of the world, for making his offices subservient to each other. But the public, in duty to themselves, ought to put an end to this species of jugglery. Enough I think has been said to shew the impropriety of vesting the offices of Physician-General to the Army, and President of the College of Physicians, in the same, at least in *such*, hands.

With respect to the examination by the College, which on another occasion I have called a farce, their own conduct, in dispensing with that form in the recent admission of Dr. Adams, affords a sufficient acknowledgment of the little importance which they annex to it, as a test of medical fitness. Sir Lucas Pepys *as President* admitted Dr. Adams without examination into the College, on the very same principle that, *as Physician-General*, he does *not* admit any Physician into the army *without previously becoming a Member of the College*. Dr. Adams, as Editor of the Medical Journal, and Physician to the Small-Pox Hospital, it is supposed, may be of service or disservice to the College and to Vaccination; so may the Physicians to the Army, it is thought, according as they are tinctured or not tinctured with the principles of Warwick Lane. This I hope and believe is putting much too high a value on the influence of Dr. Adams, and the Army Physicians, whoever they may be, when opposed to the power of free discussion.—But here we have the grand secret of the *Physician-General's* motive (besides that they are more completely in his power in *other respects*) for requiring Physicians to the Army to become Members of the College of Warwick Lane. In the case of Dr. Yates, Sir Lucas, *as President of the College*, might also

have had an additional motive for wishing to enforce a rule, which is a violation of his Majesty's Regulations for the Army. He probably was not ignorant that Dr. Yates was of that horde of Medical barbarians from the East, who have of late years made an irruption into this City, threatening to besiege the Fellows in their very capitol. If he had submitted to the farce of an examination, the purposes of the College would have been answered, whether they admitted or rejected him. In the former case, his weight would have been transferred from the scale of their opponents to their own; in the latter, the influence of his hostility would have been somewhat weakened. But his heart was in the right place, and he scorned the most favorable fruits of the degradation.

It would seem unnecessary to say any thing farther of *improper* appointments and promotions; but merely that it must be a matter of indifference to the public, whether they take place in consequence of pecuniary compensation, as is said by Dr. Buffa sometimes to happen, or any other species of undue influence.

The *proper* promotions, which the Medical Board have omitted to make, are all such as ought to have taken place in the due course of seniority, and may be said to comprehend more than nineteen twentieths of the whole establishment.

Let me ask Sir Lucas Pepys, since the opportunity occurs, upon what principle Dr. Morris has been allowed, for so many years, to enjoy as a sinecure the situation of Physician to the York Hospital at Chelsea; why Dr. Bancroft, an able-bodied Physician to the Forces, is suffered to idle his time in London, and Dr. Fellowes to attend at the toilette table of a Lady (the Countess of Westmoreland): why, I ask, are these men suffered to absent themselves from Army duty, when our troops are so much in need of Medical attendants, and so many

younger and more unfledged hands are taken into the service? This I fear can be only solved upon one principle, demonstrated in almost every page of this exposure, that in Medical appointments and distributions of Officers, the good of the service is always the smallest part of the consideration.

CRIMINAL EXPENDITURE IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Under the head of expenditure we shall first examine the Apothecary-General's charges for Medicines, being the most considerable and the most extravagant. It has been already shewn that, owing to the ignorance, or neglect of duty of the Physician and Surgeon-General, or some worse cause, the Medicines supplied by the Apothecary-General have been frequently of bad quality; that old medicines have been constantly re-issued, and that the public have suffered much loss by breakage and deficiency, owing to improper package, &c. But notwithstanding these abuses, it does not appear that any deduction was ever made from the Apothecary-General's bills. "We have," say the Commissioners, "remarked on an investigation of those bills, that the prices charged by the Apothecary-General have been uniformly admitted; for we can find no alteration or deduction in any one of the charges." (See Fifth Report, p. 49). I shall now shew that the most extraordinary imposition has been suffered with respect to those charges. This laxity, or whatever it may be, is attempted to be partly accounted for by an alledged Treasury order, (See Fifth Report, p. 48), instructing the Physician and Surgeon-General, in checking the Apothecary-General's charges, to pay attention to the delay in the payment. But on application, by the Commissioners of Military Enquiry to the Army Medical Office, the Letter, or Order, "authorising this

“ mode of proceeding, could not, after the most diligent
 “ search, be found, it being supposed to have been lost,
 “ together with many other papers, during the confu-
 “ sion of a fire which happened in the office in 1803.”

(Ibid). Neither could any trace of such a document be found at the Comptroller's Office; a circumstance not very likely to happen if it had ever existed. But this is a matter on which much stress need not be laid, as delay of payment where there is no ultimate risk, cannot authorise much more than the addition of legal interest, supposing the charges to be otherwise just.

On the article of bark, I am credibly informed, that more than a hundred per cent. has been charged by the Apothecary-General, and the quantity supplied enormous, I think not less than 15000*l.* worth in half-a-year. His bill, on this, as it has been on every other occasion, was allowed, and paid, *without any alteration or deduction.* About the same period 70*l.* were charged for oil of cinnamon. Oil of cinnamon for the Army! Was it to perfume the soldiers?

It will scarcely be believed, that at the rate of twenty-four pounds sterling, per pound weight, has been paid for James's Powder, while antimonial powder, which would have served the purpose equally well, could be got for *as many shillings!* Did Sir Lucas Pepys not know the degree of affinity between James's and the antimonial powder?

On the trifling article of lint:—Mr. Blundell, lint-scraper, complains, that at various periods 3200*l.* have been deducted from his bill. Where has this sum gone?

The following statement is verbatim as drawn up by Mr. Blundell: “ About 27 years I have had the appointment from the Apothecary General to supply the Army with Lint, and no deduction or discount was required; on Mr. Clarke's being appointed Deputy Apothecary General, (who succeeded Dr. Halifax) Mr.

“ Gunning the Surgeon General agreed that ten per cent.
 “ should be a profit of *hand over* goods to the Apothecary-
 “ General, for his trouble ; a few months elapsed when
 “ Mr. Clarke informed me that there was a bare Com-
 “ mission upon Lint, and that he expected me to allow
 “ something. I agreed to allow the ten per cent. and
 “ shortly after this sacrifice I was obliged to allow 5
 “ per cent. more, and on balancing my account in Sep-
 “ tember, 1806, the discount amounted to about 3200*l*.”

Among the curious items which have been furnished as
 Hospital Stores, we find a quantity of Spermaceti Candles !
 “ We observe,” say the Commissioners in their ex-
 amination of Mr. Wimbridge, Deputy Purveyor to the
 Forces “ in Messrs. Trotters’ account of Stores furnished
 “ in 1804, a quantity of spermaceti candles furnished for
 “ the use of York Hospital ; for what purpose, and on
 “ whose requisition were they furnished ?”

A. “ I have no knowledge of any such delivery, nor
 “ do I believe there were any spermaceti candles deli-
 “ vered at the York Hospital.” (See Fifth Report, p.
 265). A few days afterwards Mr. Wimbridge amended
 his evidence as follows : “ I now recollect receiving
 “ some panniers, in each pair of which a pound of sper-
 “ maceti candles forms part of the regular assortment.
 “ They were originally sent to the Medical Store, which
 “ occasioned my not recollecting the circumstance
 “ at the time of my former examination,” (Ibid. p. 266).
 But for what purpose, or by whose requisition they were
 furnished, are matters respecting which we are still left
 in the dark.

Dr. Jackson “ speaks of different instances on the con-
 “ tinent, and in the West Indies, during the last war,
 “ in which there appeared a great want of judgment in
 “ the selection of the medicines sent out, of great im-
 “ providence in the quantities of the supply, and of a
 “ very inexcusable inattention to the representations

“ which had been transmitted to the Surgeon-General,
 “ relative both to the assortment and quantity of Medi-
 “ cines, &c. The consequence of the whole,” as Dr.
 Jackson states, “ was a very great waste and a great un-
 “ necessary expenditure of money.” (See Fifth Report,
 page 43.)

On a comparison of the charge of the Apothecary-General for a regimental medicine chest in 1805, with the prices of Messrs. Kempson, and Co. for the same articles; the rates of the first are, on the whole invoice, 40 per Cent. higher than theirs: yet Mr. Kempson says that “ his prices would have afforded him something “ handsome in the way of profit.” (Fifth Report, page 50, 223.) The prices of the Apothecary-General exceed those of Messrs Godfrey and Cooke by 41 per cent, and those of Messrs. Corbyn and Co. by 18 per cent. in the year 1804; and in 1805, they exceed the first by 37 and the second by 19 per cent. After making ample allowance for the delay of payment, the Commissioners (Fifth Report, p. 51), consider the Apothecary Generals prices about one-fifth higher than those last mentioned. But this is evidently much too favorable a calculation.

By another comparison, it appears that the prices of the Apothecary-General exceed those charged by Messrs. Bush and Howard to the Ordnance Board by nearly 60 per cent. (vide Fifth Report, p. 238). Now there can be no delay in the payment (the pretext urged by the Medical Board) which ought to diminish this 60 per cent. above 10 per cent. The excess will be then still 50 per cent; and to this must be added the regular profits of Messrs. Bush and Howard, which cannot be less than 15 to 20 per cent.—being altogether a profit of from 65 to 70 per cent.

SURGEONS INSTRUMENTS, &c.

In order to prove the invariable extravagance of the Apothecary Generals charges in respect to medicines, and the total want of checks upon them, it is not necessary here to make farther enumerations. The Surgeons Instruments and several other necessities not strictly in his department, but occasionally furnished by him, have been constantly charged at a similar advance of price over the rest of the trade, and no check imposed upon them (See Fifth Report, p. 53, 54). “ The total charge for Instruments from the beninning of 1796 to to the end of 1806, or, for eleven years, amounts to seventy-two thousand nine hundred and nineteen pounds, four shillings and eight-pence, or nearly seven thousand pounds per annum on an average.”

On this subject, Dr. M'Grigor says “ that the present magazine of Surgical Instruments at Porchester, Isle of Wight, and York Hospital, are sufficent for *all* the armies in Europe for a century,” (Fifth Report Com. Mil. Enq. p. 185). Without vouching for the correctness of this remark, it however shews that the abuse in this branch has kept pace with those in all the other branches of the department. The calculation of 120 cases of capitals, for 30,000 men on foreign service is quite absurd ; it is at least double, if not quadruple, the number necessary. (See Fifth Report, p. 134). The quantities rusting in store are enormous. (Ibid. p. 132, 258). It is unnecessary to say much on this subject, every one, except the Members of the Medical Board, being convinced that there is no reason why all medical men in the army should not supply their own Instruments, excepting that it would occasion one job the less*.

* See Fifth Report, p. 161, Q 16. For the Apothecary-General's mode of charging for his Instruments, See Fifth Report, p. 220.

BAD QUALITY, AND EXTRAVAGANT EXPENDITURE OF WINE.

Nothing can be better for patients in a state of convalescence than good wine; and nothing can be more criminal than to deprive the sick of the advantages arising from it, by substituting, for the sake of gain, bad for good, or diminishing the quantity by applying it to other purposes. There is however too much reason to believe that these scandalous frauds have frequently been practised. Mr. Griffith, “an experienced Staff-Surgeon of “the Army,” being asked by the Commissioners of Military Enquiry: “whilst you attended at the York “Hospital, was the expenditure of wine considerable?” makes this reply: “it was *very* considerable; I remember “that in November 1799, a pipe of wine was expended “in *ten days*, and *this rate of consumption continued for “some time.*” (See Fifth Report, p. 229, Q. 95). The pipe of 138 gallons gives, in quarts, 552 bottles; according to this calculation the rate of consumption is fifty-five bottles and upwards a day, little short of a bottle to each patient, according to the average number of patients generally at that hospital! But it is not to be presumed that, out of from sixty to seventy patients, there will be more than ten, who require or get wine, and it is a very liberal supposition that these ten patients have on an average, the allowance of a pint of wine a day. This will give *five* bottles a day, fair, liberal, expenditure, leaving *fifty* bottles a day altogether unaccounted for. Did the Members of the Medical Board use any endeavour to ascertain into what attractive cellars this extraordinary quantity of wine could have found its way?—Surely their indignation must have been raised by this extravagance! Or had they taken the fancy to prescribe wine in the same copious way that they have since prescribed bleeding?

There are points of turpitude which astonish by their boldness, and paralyse investigation. But abuses so atrocious, and so flagrant, should not be allowed to elude detection, or the perpetrators to escape punishment.

The *quality* of the wine supplied (not that at the York Hospital) was frequently bad. But it was the fate of all those who *represented* this, or any other abuse, to the Medical Board, to be dismissed the service, laid aside on half-pay, or in some other manner punished. All murmurs of honest indignation against the most atrocious proceedings of a superior, or indeed of any officer, were treated as the highest crime (see the cases of Dr. Buffa and Mr. Dunne): and when, as sometimes happened, representations of this kind were made to the Medical Board, which it was not convenient for them immediately to resent, they invariably laid them aside, to be buried in oblivion, or to perish in some opportune conflagration—Bad Malaga, for instance, has been issued from the Purveyors stores for the sick, instead of the best Port Wine, which had been ordered; and when a report *pro forma* was made on the subject nothing was done in consequence of it. In the examination of Mr. Griffith, the Commissioners ask: “When you attended at the Hospital at Ghent, was the Expenditure of Wine considerable?”

A. “There was no great consumption of Wine in that Hospital; *from the badness of its quality I did not prescribe it.*” (See Fifth Report, p. 229, Q. 9).

Q. “Under what name was the wine issued to you from the Purveyor’s stores?”

A. “The Duke of York’s order was to issue the best Port Wine to the sick, but the article we received was *not Port Wine; what was issued to us, under that order appeared to be very bad Malaga.* I thought it my duty to make a report to Dr. West, Physician to the Forces, of the badness of the Wine, but *I never heard that any*

“ *thing was done in consequence of it.* I mean to apply
 “ what I have stated in this answer to the Wine supplied
 “ to the sick embarked for England under my care.”—
 (See Fifth Report, p. 229, 230).

Dr. West would, no doubt, have considered it his duty to transmit Mr. Griffith's report to the Medical Board. And I think it extremely probable that he has correctly discharged his duty, as his name is in the half-pay list. But his representations do not appear to have been acted upon, and no trace of them I presume can be found at the Medical Board Office, any more than of the report of Dr. Rogerson, on bad Medicines supplied by the Apothecary-General in 1801. In a letter on this subject from Sir Lucas Pepys and Mr. Keate to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, dated 27th July, 1807, they say, “ in reply to your precept of the
 “ 13th inst. calling for a copy of the report relative to
 “ some Medicines, &c. furnished to the York Hospital,
 “ Chelsea, from the Army Elaboratory, made in 1801,
 “ by a Board of Medical Officers, of which Dr. Rogerson
 “ was the President, we beg leave to state that *no trace*
 “ *of any such report can be found in this Office or at the*
 “ *York Hospital.*” (Fifth Report, p. 229, 230). The abuse which gave rise to the Board, of which Dr. Rogerson was President, has been already stated.

The habits of mislaying, burning, or otherwise destroying documents, are sometimes extremely convenient. The Medical Board having stated to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, that they were directed by the Treasury, in their examination of the Apothecary-General's charges, to take into consideration the delay of payment, were called upon by the Commissioners for a copy of the alledged Treasury order, and, in reply, state that, “ After
 “ the most minute search, the letter in question cannot
 “ be found. We cannot account,” say they, “ for the loss
 “ of this document, otherwise than by the fire which took
 “ place at this office in September, 1803, which caused

“ the whole of the papers to be removed from the presses
 “ in which they were regularly arranged, and to be
 “ thrown into confusion in the streets by firemen and other
 “ strangers assisting at the time; by such means a great
 “ number of them were lost, and others rendered entirely
 “ useless by the wet and dirt with which they were covered.” (See Fifth Report, page 231.)

DEPOTS.

The folly of establishing Depots of medicines, in a civilized country, where they can be had at a moment's warning in every town or village, can only be equalled by its extravagance, and scarcely requires a comment. The sole purposes which they serve are to increase the Apothecary-General's bill, and to augment the patronage of the Medical Board by creating unnecessary appointments. “ In
 “ 1801, fourteen New Depots were established in different
 “ parts of England, on the recommendation of the Surgeon General.” (See Fifth Report, page 55.) They were discontinued on the conclusion of peace. But at the breaking out of the war again, in 1803 and 1804, the Surgeon-General, determined not to lose so good an opportunity “ of business and of patronage,” recommended the establishment of FORTY! (Ibid.)

This measure Dr. Borland considers unwise and unnecessary, “ because every town in the Kingdom could
 “ have furnished the required supply of those articles.” (See Fifth Report, page 161.) In such Depots, medicines cannot be kept fresh; they will soon spoil. Besides can they not be got, as wanted, from London? Mr. Keate perhaps contemplated the country as invaded by an enemy, and the communication with the metropolis cut off in every direction. Such an event alone could have given the project an appearance of rationality. If unhappily

realized, the Medical Board and their Depots would be of no value excepting to the enemy. But the fertile prospect of patronage presented by an expected invasion, was not to be slighted. Forty Depots would have occasioned at least two hundred appointments!

In consequence of these multiplied jobs, we have had, for the last 12 years, since the privilege of supplying their medicines was taken from the Regimental Surgeons, the enormous annual sum of 67,340*l.* to pay to the Apothecary-General. “ His charges
“ from the 1st. of January, 1795, to the 31st. of De-
“ cember, 1806, including 72,919*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* for Surgical
“ Instruments, have amounted to 809,088*l.* 17*s.* or 67,340*l.*
“ per annum, on an average.” (See Fifth Report, page 39.) The annual expence subsequent to 1806 must be much greater than this average. While the annual charge to the navy has been only at the rate of 17,500*l.* per annum (ib. p. 58,) and that to the ordinance during the years 1804 and 1805, 6,825*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.* being an annual average of 3,412*l.* 17*s.* 6½*d.*, the number of men being above twenty thousand five hundred, and of horses eight thousand five hundred. I may here remark on the impropriety of dealing with Apothecaries’ Hall on terms so unfavourable to the public, under the presumption of their goods being of superior quality. Their price for one article (æther) I am informed is 24 or 25*s.* per pound, while it can be procured from private manufacturers for one-third of the amount. On this subject the Transport Board, and other public offices that may have occasion to deal with Apothecaries’ Hall, ought to institute the strictest enquiries.

As a specimen of the Apothecary General's mode of charging, I take the following statement:

CHARGES BY THE APOTHECARY GENERAL.							REAL COST.	
426	Æther vit.	- a 24	per lb.	511	4 0	9	191	14 0
505	Opium purif.	- 52	—	1313	0 0	26	656	10 0
912	Liq. Vol. Corn. Cerv.	3	—	136	16 0	6d	22	16 0
346½	Kali Acetat	- 10	8 —	184	16 0	6	6	112 12 0
4961	Farina Lini	- 8	—	165	7 4	5d	62	0 3
95½	Ol. Pip. Menth.	88	—	421	12 0	48	228	12 0
474½	Ammon. ppt.	- 9	6 —	225	5 4½	2	8	59 6 4
30457	Natron Vitriol.	15d	—	1649	15 1	6½	824	17 6
1552	Cerussa Acetat	7	—	543	4 0	18d	116	8 0
6118	Ung. Hydrarg. fort	5	—	1529	10 0	3	917	14 0
Charges by the Apothecary General				6680	9 9½		3192	10 4
Real Cost - - - - -				3192	10 4			
				3487	19 5½			

Profit charged to Government 3,487*l.* : 19 : 5½ on 3,192*l.* 10 : 4. The above is extracted from a justification of the charges, published by the Apothecary-General's Deputy. The profit considerably exceeds 100 per cent!

The whole expence of the Army Medical Department, there is reason to believe, although from the various modes of making the payments, it is difficult to obtain a certainty, (5th Report, page 78,) may be estimated at about half-a-million sterling annually, including our foreign dependencies. And by a calculation, which I shall afterwards have occasion to make, it will appear that the present abuses in the Medical Department of the army occasion an useless expenditure to the nation of more than 100,000*l.* annually, independently of the lives lost in consequence of its inefficiency and mal-organization; and which I shall estimate, at the rate at which they could be replaced, at 200,000*l.* more. Thus the saving capable of being effected by the appointment of fit persons, under a system of proper regulations, to the head of the department, calculating moderately, will exceed in lives 4000, and in money 300,000*l.* annually.

OF THE USELESS AND EXTRAVAGANT EXPENDITURE OCCASIONED BY THE INSPECTORIAL, GENERAL HOSPITAL, AND HOSPITAL STAFF SYSTEMS.

I have said, that in respect to the effects of the Inspectorial System, and the conduct of Mr. Knight in general, the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, from the channel in which the evidence principally flowed, have been considerably misled. Dr. McGrigor, in his publication, gives a very striking instance of the delusion which men may practice on themselves in such matters. Addressing the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, he says, “ Had
 “ you commenced your labours in the Military Department at an earlier period, your task in regard to the
 “ Medical branch, arduous as it is, would have been incalculably more difficult; and your report would have
 “ excited no common sensation in the public mind. But
 “ your investigation began at a time, when, by the *indefatigable industry, and incorruptible integrity of one individual, an effectual remedy had been applied to most of the abuses which had previously existed.* For, however public opinion may be divided on some points, it
 “ is well known, and indeed *universally acknowledged,* by the great body of Medical Officers, as well as the
 “ army at large, that these *reforms* originated in the judicious and unwearied exertions of the present Inspector-General of Hospitals, and the *well-digested system,* which, with the approbation of his Royal Highness the
 “ Commander in Chief, he has arranged and introduced. By these improvements the service, as well as the
 “ public at large, have been benefitted, *immense retrenchments* have been made, the effective strength of the
 “ army has been increased, and *by a more liberable remuneration being offered, men of superior talents and educa-*

“ *tion have been induced to enter the Medical Department.*”

If any credit were due to this statement, the influence of this great man must have operated like magic. But what will be thought of such assertions, when it comes out in evidence that the conduct of the Inspector-General has produced effects the very reverse of the fulsome picture here drawn?

Dr. M'Grigor should have come to particulars; he should have condescended to specify the abuses which Mr. Knight has remedied. Has he paid the smallest respect to promotion by seniority, a most essential thing in every profession, but more especially in medicine? On the contrary, has he not uniformly trampled it under foot? Has he amended the practice, and in what respect? Dr. M'Grigor says, that by the *system* of Mr. Knight, (What system?) “men of superior talents and education have been induced to enter the Medical Department.” Yet Mr. Knight himself, in the teeth of this bold assertion, complains that he cannot get even common Medical *recruits* (to use his own courteous expression), in sufficient number. Thus we see that the statement of Mr. Knight and his friends are in flat contradiction to each other. They should have compared notes before they committed themselves to the public.

With respect to economising, will Dr. M'Grigor favour us with a table of the useful retrenchments made by Mr. Knight, and, *per contra*, of the useless expences incurred in consequence of his pernicious system of inspection? This is a part which the Commissioners do not appear to have sufficiently investigated, and in respect to which they have been egregiously misled. It is extremely natural that Drs. M'Grigor and Borland should have a predilection in favour of Inspectorships; and it is not surprising that the Commissioners, from the evidence having happened to go so much in the same channel, should have

been induced to form a favourable opinion of a system that is not only expensive and useless, but is, in effect, a practical insult on every Medical man, not belonging to it, in the service. With as much propriety might subaltern officers be raised over the heads of captains in the army, for the purpose of inspecting their companies, and reporting that they did their duty. With respect to the evidence given by different gentlemen to the Commissioners, by which they have been misled, I impute no bad motive to any one. The natural bias of the human mind, whether from habit or interest, will sufficiently account for occasional inaccuracies of representation, without the existence of improper intention.

It is an undoubted fact, however, that much of the evidence given has tended to mislead the Commissioners; and it shall be my endeavour, in the course of this enquiry, to specify and explain wherein they have been principally deceived.

In the first place, let us examine the pretensions to saving of these boasted economists.

They have saved, by depriving the Regimental Surgeons of the privilege of supplying their medicines, we shall suppose 5000*l.* a year.

They have added to the Apothecary-General's bills, which I presume, if confined, as formerly, to the supply of guards and garrisons, would not now exceed 5000*l.* 62,340*l.* annually. The following calculation will shew the extravagant expenditure of the establishment upon its present footing, and the great saving which might be effected by giving it a proper organization. In the first place, the expences of the Medical Board establishment are at least double what they ought to be. They are stated in 1806 at 7448*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* (See Fifth Report, p. 8.) Since that period, two of the Assistants (Borland and R. Keate) have been very unnecessarily promoted to the rank and pay of Inspectors, increasing the expence by at

least 1000*l.* (See Fifth Report.) It is no great stretch of fancy to suppose, that other expences have been increasing to the extent of between 1500*l.* and 2000*l.* a year more, giving on the whole an expenditure for the current year of upwards of 10,000*l.* This may be considered a very moderate estimate ; for it is only allowing an increase of *one-fourth* in *three* years, while we know that, from 1799 to 1806, a period of *seven* years, the office expences were *more than doubled*. (See Fifth Report, p. 8). Of this 10,000*l.* at least one half may be saved, it being quite practicable to discharge the duties of the department much better than they are at present discharged, for 5000*l. per annum*.

By the comparative statement which I shall have occasion to make, between the Royal Medical Establishment and that of the East India Company, it will appear that the latter is much more efficient, without any of the persons coming under the description of what is called here *Hospital-Staff*, and with a *Regimental-Staff* always *one-half*, sometimes *two-thirds*, and occasionally *three-fourths*, less numerous. The Commissioners of Military Enquiry (see 5th Report, page 14,) say, “ this does not include the “ Staff in India and Ceylon,” (meaning of the *King's* troops.) They must have been incorrectly informed on this subject, for I can take upon me to say, that there is *no* Royal Medical Staff in India, nor I believe any of consequence in Ceylon, notwithstanding which, the affairs of the Medical Department in both places, are admitted to be perfectly well managed. Happily for the sick soldier, and the national purse, these countries have hitherto, from their distance, I presume, escaped the direful influence of Medical Board inspection.

If, therefore, the East India Company's Establishments be efficient, as the evidence of Dr. Yates tends to shew, the Hospital-Staff of the British army, *at least*, is a superfluous encumbrance, and a source of unnecessary ex-

pence. The amount of the full pay, (see Fifth Report, pages 12, 13), of persons of this description, is 86,107*l.* 16*s.* annually, of their half-pay, 16,909*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* Total, 103,317*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* The Foreign Hospital establishment expenditure, (see Fifth Report, p. 27), might altogether be saved, as the duties of it might, and ought to be performed in the general office. The annual expence is 2,500*l.* The ascertained expence of Hospital or Purveyor's stores have, on an average of thirteen years down to the year 1807, amounted to 45,000*l.* (see Fifth Report, p. 62.) wine, spirits and porter *acknowledged* (for there were wines which cannot now be traced) furnished from London only, to nearly 4000*l.* (see Fifth Report, p. 65). But, as the price of commodities, and the extravagance of expenditure in this department, have both been rapidly increasing of late years, it may be regarded as certain, that the present annual disbursements for these articles exceed by at least 10,000*l.* a year, the average amount above taken. By proper regulations, and a fixed responsibility, even under the present system, I am of opinion, that at least one half of these sums might be saved to the public. But it will be better, I think, to adopt a plan of commutation which I am going to suggest, by which the whole may be deducted from the usual expenditure.

It now only remains for me to state an article of saving, which, independent of its amount, possesses an interest infinitely superior to all the others.—I mean the saving in lives. I shall endeavour to shew, in a statement apart, that from the ignorance of the Members of the Medical Board, and the consequent mismanagement of the whole department, it is highly probable that, by a proper Medical Board and proper management, at least one third of the usual mortality might be prevented. This I calculate at home, and in all our dependencies at 15,000 men annually. Say, however, that the deaths are only 12,000 a year, of which the third will be 4000, and that the

expence of replacing each man, completely accoutred, is 50*l.* this will give an annual saving in *money only*, to the amount of £. 200,000 0 0

Apothecary-General's bill, over what is

supposed to be the adequate supply to

guards and garrisons, 62,340 0 0

Medical Board, saving one half 5,000 0 0

The whole of the Hospital Staff 103,317 8 6

Foreign Hospital establishment 2,500 0 0

Hospital and Purveyor's stores, wines,

&c. independent of the articles sup-

plied for hospitals abroad 49,000 0 0

422,157 8 6

Deduct supposed allowance to Regi-

mental Surgeons for supplying Hos-

pital and Purveyor's stores, wines,

medicines, &c. 90,000 0 0

Annual saving £. 332,157 8 6

It would, no doubt, be considered libellous to assert, that the extraordinary augmentation of late years of the Inspectorial and Hospital-Staff systems, and of the Apothecary-General's bill, was intended to produce an increase of patronage, and emolument, to the Members of the Medical Board. I shall therefore only say, that the two former certainly have had *the effect of increasing their patronage*; and that, if the latter have not *necessarily had the effect of increasing their emolument*, the immense profits of the Apothecary-General on his annual bills of 67,340*l.* might be supposed to enable him to share very handsomely with those who were appointed as his checks. And notwithstanding our willingness to believe the disinterestedness of these gentlemen, and to attribute to pure patriotism their desire to increase these branches of the Medical establishment, we must call in question the pro-

priety of expending between three and four hundred thousand pounds of the public money annually, merely to gratify the whims or the ambition of the three individuals composing the Medical Board.

Admitting the propriety of each Regimental-Surgeon being allowed a certain sum annually, for the supply of his corps with Hospital and Purveyor's stores, wines, spirits, malt liquors, and medicines, I calculate that 300*l.* a year will be a very liberal allowance for each regiment of 1000 men. Supposing our army to amount to 300,000 effective men, this will give an expenditure of 90,000*l.* annually. But say that 400*l.* should be allowed to each Regimental-Surgeon, giving an annual expenditure of 120,000*l.* we should then, according to the preceding statement, have still a saving of above 300,000*l.* annually. To this plan I cannot see any reasonable objection. If the allowances were made so liberal that it would not even be productive of any saving, it would still be better that the immense sums expended should be divided among the Regimental-Surgeons of the Army, than remains as at present, centered in the hands of a few individuals.

Will the Medical Board in objection, have the effrontery to say?—"We cannot venture to expose Regimental-Surgeons to the temptation of abusing any part of the 300*l.* or 400*l.* (or whatever it may be), proposed to be allowed for the annual supply of their regiments with Hospital and Purveyor's stores, wines, spirits, malt liquors, and medicines. But we can *safely expose ourselves* to the temptation arising from the regulation and controul of an annual expenditure of several hundred thousand pounds!!!" Such, I have no doubt would be the purport of the objection stated by these men, and their parasites, to the good old plan of allowing a certain sum to Regimental-Surgeons for the supply of their medicines, improving it in the manner above pro-

Here we should be at a loss which most to admire, — the modesty of the Medical Board, or their estimate of the common sense of mankind.

With respect to the Apothecary-General's exclusive privilege, the rights which it appears to confer, according to the terms of the patent, are very limited, (see Fifth Report, p. 218). He is to obey all the orders of his superiors, and to supply good medicines, &c. — Now, it does not follow that he has a right to the supply of medicines further than the good of the service, and the will of his superiors, may dictate. Previous to 1796, he only supplied the Guards and Garrisons, (see Fifth Report). That the orders were at that period extended to the supply of the line was, therefore, *not a matter of right*, but a measure dictated by the Medical Board, when they judged it expedient to take the privilege of supplying the regiments, most improperly, as I think, from the Surgeons of corps. To restore this privilege, therefore, besides being a matter of economy and utility, cannot be said to trench, in the smallest degree, on the patent rights of the Apothecary-General.

The Commissioners pointedly condemn the General Hospital system (Fifth Report, p. 22), which, on foreign service, they even are inclined to consider altogether an useless incumbrance. The Hospital-Staff must consequently be regarded as a source of useless expence. In this I include all the descriptions of persons lately mentioned, viz. Inspectors, Deputy-Inspectors, Physicians, Staff-Surgeons, and Hospital-Mates, Apothecaries, Purveyors, Deputy-Purveyors, &c. There never surely was such a preposterous office as that of Inspector of Hospitals. Has not every Medical Officer, at the head of an hospital, whatever be his title, as good an education, as much credit to sustain, and as many honourable feelings to comply with, as a man set over him with the title of *Inspector*, enjoying more pay, and bedaubed with more

lace? Yes, this is evident; but, if these offices were abolished, what would become of the patronage of *General Knight*? It is Colonel Burnet's opinion, a man well acquainted with the management and discipline of hospitals, that Inspectors and Deputy-Inspectors are unnecessary. (See Fifth Report, p. 66.).

The fatal effects of the exclusive selection of Physicians to the Forces from civil life, in order to secure a monopoly in favour of the Graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, have been already shewn by various statements respecting the Medical transactions in St. Domingo; (See pages 7 to 13) and the fact is further corroborated by the effects of the opposite mode adopted and pursued with such success in the Artillery, Royal Navy, and still more in the East India Company's service, of which Dr. Bancroft, in his "*Letter to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry*," presumes to speak disparagingly, without the smallest knowledge of the subject. In the Ordnance, and in the East India Company's service, there are no such class of Medical Officers; and with respect to the Navy, the Physicians to the Fleets and Hospitals have all been taken from the list of Navy Surgeons for the last fifteen years.

Among the number, I shall only mention Drs. Trotter, Hope, Harness, Blair, Weir, Baird, Thomson, Mc. Gennis, Wilson, Gray, &c. *. The adoption of this measure in the Navy, it must be presumed, as governments are not prone to innovation, for innovation's sake, was founded on a conviction of the injurious consequences to the service, of taking Physicians from civil life, as well as in a sense of justice towards the Medical Gentlemen already employed; and if the experiment had not been found

* These Gentlemen, though not Fellows of the College, will be found to hold at least as high a rank in the scale of experience and solid learning, as those who participate in the monopoly of Warwick-lane.

to succeed, we may, upon the same principle, conclude that government would have again returned to the Physicians from civil life. It appears that, in his elaborate dissertation on this subject, Dr. Bancroft has not been able to state a single fact, or to advance a single argument in favour of his system, and that the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, so far as this point goes, are perfectly correct in the opinion which they have delivered. I most cordially agree with them, that if we are to have a set of Officers under the title of Physicians, they should be taken from the class of Surgeons. That there are, indeed, Physicians in the Army, who, from education and the experience they have acquired, are capable of adorning their profession, I am not at all disposed to deny; but it is this very experience which they acquire with armies, and in foreign climates, and not *their knowledge of principles*, according to the absurd notions of Sir Lucas Pepys, which renders them good practitioners, and lays the foundation of such professional fame, as some of them afterwards acquire in civil life. I shall have other occasions to animadvert on Sir Lucas's *knowledge of principles*, as well as upon the gross error into which Dr. Bancroft has fallen, respecting the inefficiency of the East India establishments, which I will contend against Dr. Bancroft, or any other doctor, are without exception, the most efficient in the universe; and not the less so that they have *no Physicians from civil life among them*. Mr. Keate, as naturally in unison with the sentiments of Dr. Bancroft, as Drs. Borland and M'Grigor, are attached to the system of Mr. Knight, has also favored us with *his* opinion of the Medical department in India, (see his Letter to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry) regarding it as a simple institution, which had its origin when we had only factories in that country, and by no means worthy to be compared with that more splendid and complicated establishment, which derived its principal ramifica-

tions from his own and his Colleagues' (Mr. Knight's) prolific brains. Now it is my humble opinion, that we could not expect less edification than we have derived from his dissertation on the East India Medical establishment, if Mr. Keate were to take it in his head to write a treatise on the diseases of hot climates. In his comparison of the two establishments, however, I fear there was something worse than preposterous vanity on the part of the Surgeon-General. Is it possible that, in imputing to the East India system the youth and inexperience of Dr. Mc. Grigor, as head of the Medical-Staff sent from India to Egypt last war, the Surgeon-General could have been insensible of the gross mis-statement he was making? Could he have been ignorant that, if Dr. Mc. Grigor, as head of the Medical-Staff, did supercede Medical Officers of longer standing, it was in no degree owing to undue promotion or the influence of favoritism, in the Company's service, but to his relative situation in that of the King; and that, whatever impropriety was in this appointment, is due to no other person than Mr. Keate himself?

The Surgeon-General, although he has shewn a little ingenuity and much cunning in his publications, has not succeeded in producing a single grain of conviction on any unbiassed reader; and would have acted a more prudent part had he followed the example of the sages, his Colleagues, by giving his exculpation *privately* to the Commander in Chief or Secretary at War. It would not then have been subject to the severity of public animadversion. Is Mr. Keate really so ignorant as not to know, that no injustice of this kind, no supercession, can be committed in India, excepting when King's troops are serving with those of the Company; and that no medical man on the Company's establishments can receive the rank of Surgeon, according to the usual rate of promotion by seniority, until he has served seven, eight, or perhaps ten

years as Assistant Surgeon? What a shocking system, without a single grain of patronage!

Dr. Bancroft has fallen into another error, in supposing the practice of taking Navy Physicians from the class of Navy Surgeons, to be “but a *new*, and as yet “unfinished experiment.” (P. 16). This new and unfinished experiment, I can tell him, has been very generally practised during the whole of the last, as well as the present war, and any occasional deviation from the rule both here and in the Ordnance department, (if there have been any) could only have constituted exceptions. With respect to the practice of taking Physicians for the Army from civil life, having formerly prevailed, (see his Letter to the Commissioners, &c. p. 13) it proves nothing in either way; if it was then an abuse, it is now an abuse. Dr. Bancroft mentions a number of names, as Dr. Sandilands, Dr. Bailey, Sir John Pringle, Sir Clifton Wintringham, &c. and some of these he exultingly tells us were Fellows of the College, as if the circumstance of being admitted to the Fellowship could endow a man with Medical knowledge. Will Dr. Bancroft say, that these gentlemen were appointed Physicians to the Army on account of their *previous* professional reputation? Or rather must he not confess that their *subsequent* professional reputation arose from their services, and more probably still from their connections, in the Army? It is rather unfortunate for Dr. Bancroft's cause, that his own *experience* on a particular scene of action should militate so strongly against his *argument*. That I may not be supposed to do him an injustice, I shall quote his own words. “Of the “*eleven* Physicians (with the Army at St. Domingo) *six* “died in less than six months after the Army had “arrived in the West Indies: and four others, of which “it was my fortune to be one, were rendered for a time “incapable of duty by severe attacks of the yellow fever,

“ only one escaping, who had become seasoned to the “ climate by long residence in the West Indies.” (See his Letter, p. 53.) Now when we are informed by other authorities, that, of the Inspectors of Hospitals, who were taken from Regimental or Staff-Surgeons, as Young, Weir, Maclean, Jackson, Henderson, &c. not one died, or was incapable of doing duty for any considerable length of time, while the Physicians taken from civil life (with one exception) either all died or became not only useless, but a burthen to the Army, the survivors requiring Medical assistance themselves, surely it must be admitted that the experiment was very decisive. (See Henderson’s Suggestions for the prevention of Yellow Fever, &c.). I will here go a little further, and say, that if all the Fellows of the College, who had not been before in warm climates had been sent out with the Army, we should not have less mortality, but in all probability so much the more, by nearly the precise number of the additional hands. The practice of Warwick Lane, which is bad enough any where, will not do at all in the East or West Indies. Before a prescription obscurely worded can be decyphered and made up, the patient may die. Saline draughts, Mithridate, or Theriaca Andromache may be good amusement for old women, but they will not do to repel a yellow fever, or a dysentery. To say then that a man is the better qualified to take care of sick soldiers for being enrolled among the monopolists of Warwick-lane, is to assert what I must be excused for thinking can scarcely be believed, even by the most prejudiced among themselves. That a Physician who has received an Edinburgh, or a good London education, will make as good an Army Physician, if he has also had the same experience in foreign climates, as an Army Surgeon who has had the usual education and opportunities of that description of persons, I have no doubt. Dr. Bancroft, from his services

at St. Domingo and in Egypt, may have acquired some knowledge of the duties of an Army-Physician. But *previous* to that experience, notwithstanding the *knowledge of principles* which he might have imbibed from Sir Lucas Pepys, I would, without disparagement to the learned Doctor, much rather have entrusted my life to an Army Surgeon of very moderate talents and some experience, than to himself. It is idle, or much worse than idle, to talk of that non-entity, which Sir Lucas Pepys calls a *knowledge of principles*. Where, and what is it? what effect could the doctrines of Warwick Lane produce on the yellow fever of St. Domingo? Dr. Bancroft himself acknowledges that the 20,000 men placed under the command of Sir Ralph Abercrombie, in 1795, “*were generally considered as chiefly destined to certain death.*” (See his Letter to the Com. of Mil. Enq.). He leaves us to suppose, if we think proper, that this arose from the incurable nature of the disease. But the true explanation has been given by Dr. Chisholm. (See page 7 to 10). With respect to Staff-Surgeons, the senior Surgeons of the establishment, as in India, are the proper Officers to discharge the duties of superintending General Hospitals; and the youngest Assistant-Surgeons unattached to Corps the most fit persons to conduct the subordinate duties of those establishments, &c. Here we have a simple, compendous system, which does away at once the whole incumbrance of Hospital-Staff.—But then there is no patronage.

INJUSTICE COMMITTED BY THE MEDICAL BOARD IN FRAMING REGULATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

I have said that the Medical Board never proposed any improvement which was not forced upon them by the necessities of the service; and this I shall now instance in the regulations of 1804. Nothing could be more jesuitically or unjustly framed. They increased the pay of those only whom they could not otherwise procure for the Army. The pay of the Physicians remained as before, with the additional mortification of being liable to be superceded by Mr. Knight's boy Inspectors, in violation of every principle of propriety and justice, and every rule of promotion in the British Army, apparently with the sole effect of increasing the already enormous patronage of Mr. Knight. Purveyors and Deputy-Purveyors also remained as before. But the most unjust part of these regulations regarded the Apothecaries to the Forces, who were promoted to that rank from Surgeons of Regiments previous to 1798, and were afterwards serving as Surgeons to recruiting districts. They were left as before, that is in a condition inferior to that of the youngest Regimental Surgeon, a situation from which some of them had been *promoted* to the Staff, as Apothecaries to the Forces, *fifteen years before*. *Their services being past*, it was not in the system of the Medical Board to give them farther encouragement. As a *favour* Mr. Keate recently offered *some* of them the alternative of *returning* to the class of regimental Surgeons, instead of procuring them, at an advanced period of life, and with worn out constitutions, a comfortable retirement. Let us examine this new mode of promotion.

Previous to 1798, the Apothecaries to the Forces were in general selected from the most experienced Regi-

mental-Surgeons, avowedly chosen for their merit, or length of service, and consequently considered as qualified to fill any Medical situation in the Army. By the King's regulations, they were not only to take charge of the Medicines, and to superintend their expenditure, but likewise to do the duty of Staff-Surgeons, and Physicians to the Forces, whenever the service required it. On foreign service, they were accordingly called upon by the Inspectors of Hospitals to perform both of these duties, without receiving any additional pay or advantage. Had those Officers been informed, or could they possibly have conceived that the acceptance of the appointment of Apothecary to the Forces, or District-Surgeon could, at some future period, operate to their exclusion from further promotion, and from participating in the increase of pay, or the advantages of retirement, granted by the subsequent regulations of 1804, to their juniors or inferiors in rank, they could not possibly have had the folly or the madness to accept of them. The pay of the Staff-Apothecaries, who have been serving as District-Surgeons, remains the same as in the reign of Queen Ann, nine shillings and five-pence a day: nay less, because it is now subject to the deduction of ten per cent. income tax; while the youngest Regimental-Surgeon receives 11*s.* 4*d.* with forage for a horse; the Surgeon of twenty years 18*s.* 10*d.* precisely *double* the pay of Apothecaries to the Forces, who *are* of superior rank, and *may have been* nearly *double* the period in the service. This *retro-gradation* is equally discouraging to the individual, and injurious to the service, and no less contrary to the dictates of justice and common sense, than to the established usage of the British Army. Would it not be considered a singular phenomenon, in the Military department of the Army, if Majors, who had, in the course of events, been ordered to special Staff duties, differing from the usual routine of Regi-

mental service, should on that account be prevented from participating in any general increase of pay to the Officers of the Army, so as to find it their advantage to return to their former rank of Captain?

It may be necessary here to refer to a sort of Machiavelian stratagem, by which the Army Medical Board have contrived that Gentlemen who had been twenty, thirty, and forty years serving in every quarter of the world, and had been promoted from the rank of Regimental Surgeon, should have been again reduced to a situation only superior to the lowest Medical appointment in the Army; or to speak more correctly, that the situation itself should have been comparatively reduced to that level. Apothecaries to the Forces, by a late regulation, are taken from the lowest medical situation in the army, namely, that of Hospital Mate; and the duties of the situation reduced to the level of a Store-keeper. Hence young men who may not have been in the service six months, are placed on an equal footing with veteran Medical Officers, who have risen progressively, and been promoted from the rank of Regimental Surgeons, perhaps before the young Apothecary was born. But this is not all; after having been exposed in common with other officers, to every species of personal danger, and having, to the detriment, or total ruin of their health and constitution, undergone every hardship and privation attendant on a military life, their long and faithful services are, perhaps, at length rewarded with the half-pay of 5s. a day, less by 1s. a day than the *youngest* Regimental-Surgeon is entitled to; and this at a period of life when, in consequence of those very services, they are rendered incapable of bettering their condition by any professional exertion in civil life. In this respect the Members of the Medical Board do not appear ambitious of rivalling the benevolent Howard, of whom it is said that he used to put his aged horses into his best pastures. Is it sur-

prising that Mr. Knight should have to complain of the want of Medical *recruits* for the Army?

Among the Medical Officers, who were within the cruel predicament just stated, we find the names of Dr. Graham, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Stuart Henderson*, Mr. Hinchley, and many others. Would not these Gentlemen, at least such of them as are fit for duty, after twenty to forty years experience in every climate, have made better Army Physicians than the young Graduates of Oxford or Cambridge, who were sent to the West Indies in 1795, fraught with Sir Lucas Pepys's *knowledge of principles*, and almost all died, or became a burthen to the Army? Would they not have made much better Inspectors than the youths who have from favoritism, been promoted over their heads, and some of whom were plying in their nurse's laps, when most of the respectable Gentlemen mentioned were Surgeons of Regiments on foreign stations? If successful practice be any criterion of a Physician's skill, there are powerful motives why these Gentlemen should not have been overlooked. I shall in particular adduce the case of Mr. Stuart Henderson, whose zeal and abilities were manifested for a period of 32 years, holding situations of responsibility both in the Navy and Army. As a proof of his success-

* Dr. Henderson, a very worthy Gentleman, is at this moment, after having served his Majesty thirty-two years in the Army and Navy, with a ruined constitution in consequence of those services, in the enjoyment of District-Surgeon's half-pay of 5*s.* per diem; a charming prospect in advanced age, with increasing infirmities! But Dr. Henderson had once committed the audacious crime of applying for a court martial on Mr. Keate, which was refused him! On examining the half-pay list, we shall find some more instances of this species of cruelty, that are a disgrace to a civilized nation. Mr. Hill, a Staff-Surgeon, after *thirty-two* years service, enjoys the half-pay of 5*s.* a day, and 50*l.* a year, being altogether less than 150*l.* annually. Mr. Taylor, a Staff-Surgeon, after *forty* years service, has obtained the same reward. (See Fifth Report, p. 154).

ful practice in the former, the reader will be satisfied with the following table, officially authenticated by the Navy Board, which we have extracted from the first volume of the London Physical Journal.

“ These are to certify, that it appears by the books of
 “ his Majesty’s ship *Astræa*, in this office, that Mr.
 “ Stuart Henderson was Surgeon of the said ship, on the
 “ Jamaica station from the 28th of December, 1786, to
 “ the 28th June, 1790, comprehending a period of three
 “ years and six months, during which time not any sea-
 “ man or marine died on board the said ship ;—but eight
 “ who were sent to Port Royal Hospital died there.

Navy Office,

9th March, 1809.

“ R. A. NELSON, Sect.”

Remarks by Mr. Henderson.

“ Of the eight who died in Port Royal Hospital, four
 “ were from accidents—so four can only be said to have
 “ died from disease during the above period.”

This table forms rather a striking contrast to the result of the practice of the young Physicians from civil life, in their treatment of the diseases of the West Indies. Of these Gentlemen I wish not to speak unhandsomely. It is their pretended friends, who, by giving them qualifications which they have not had opportunities of acquiring, wantonly expose them to ungracious animadversion.

In my opinion, it is impossible to peruse the facts, which have been stated, without feeling a conviction that all liberal, enlightened, and just sentiments have been banished from this department, and that, from beginning to end, the whole is a job, nothing but a job, and a job of the most rank and pernicious kind. By way of contrast, we have the pleasure to observe, that, by the latest regulations for the Medical department of the Navy, all

classes of Officers are admitted to a fair participation in the increased half-pay, according to the length of their services respectively. The Surgeons, whose impaired health from length of service disqualify them for active employment at sea, and are therefore stationed on board of ships in harbour,—a description of persons very analogous in their situations to District-Surgeons ashore,—have been wisely and humanely included in this benefit.

DIVISION OF PATRONAGE

In order to bring the reader a little behind the scenes, it may be proper to take a general view of the politics and parties by which the Medical Department of the Army has been long distracted. From the mismanagement, which, ever since the death of Mr. Hunter*, has prevailed in the Medical Board, but more especially since the injudicious regulations, by which, in 1798, the Members of that body ceased to act as a Board, each standing upon his individual responsibility, and enjoying his particular patronage; the whole corps, independently of sub-divisions, have been necessarily divided into three parties. Without attempting to trace the minute ramifications of attachment, which different views of interest may, in a period of years, have led individuals to form towards their superiors in office, I shall only advert to the actual apparent effects of the operation of this spirit. The Physicians to the Forces, now all taken from civil life, besides their natural attachment to Sir Lucas Pepys as their patron, are also presumed to have a kind of sub-

* So tenacious was Mr. Hunter to avoid even the appearance of undue influence, that he has been known to manifest much displeasure at receiving game, sent him from the country, by the parents of candidates. He thought it necessary to pay some attention to seniority.

ordinate regard for Mr. Keate as the supporter of general hospitals.

They however exclusively form the party of Sir Lucas, towards whom no individual of any other class can be supposed to entertain much good will, seeing that his system of monopoly in favor of Oxford and Cambridge Graduates, destroys their hopes in that particular line of promotion subject to his controul.

The next in order is the Surgeon-General, whose patronage embraces the appointments and distribution of Surgeons to the Forces, District-Surgeons, Regimental-Surgeons, and Assistant-Surgeons. I do not pretend to know whether Mr. Keate's predilection in favor of general hospitals be founded on an unbiassed opinion, or a sense of their utility in a view of patronage. The system however does require the employment of a greater number of Staff-Surgeons as well as Physicians, consequently the several descriptions of persons whom I have mentioned may be supposed to have a leaning to a *certain degree* towards the Surgeon-General. I do not however think that either his patronage or his party, as seems to have been generally imagined, bears any reasonable proportion to that of the Inspector-General of Army Hospitals, any more than those of the Physician-General bear to those of Mr. Keate; for every individual of the department, from the highest to the lowest, must look ultimately to the Inspector-General of Hospitals for their highest promotion. Not only Staff-Surgeons, Regimental-Surgeons, Assistant-Surgeons, and Hospital-Mates, but even Physicians to the Forces will aspire to the attainment of the rank of Deputy-Inspector and Inspector of Hospitals. The patronage of Mr. Knight is consequently enormous, and his party proportionally great. This view of the department presents the strange phenomenon of the youngest Member of a Board enjoying the greatest sum of patronage and emolument.

Under such a system it is utterly impossible that the Medical Department of the Army should not be distracted by jealousies, party, and strife, from which much injury must constantly arise to the public service.

It is singular that, in the division of patronage, by far the greatest sum should, by some accident, have fallen to the share of the greatest declaimer in favor of economy. To speak in round numbers, the annual income of the establishments under the patronage of Mr. Knight (including Hospital Mates) amounts to 50,000*l.* while that of Mr. Keate's partisans does not exceed 30,000*l.* per annum, and that of Sir Lucas Pepys's friends only amounts to 10,000*l.* (See Fifth Report, p. 12). The Physician-General's pay and allowances are only 730*l.* per annum, while those of a common Inspector are 944*l.* 12*s.* (*Ibid*). Mr. Keate's income for his several offices amounts to 1,830*l.* and Mr. Knight's to 1,893*l.* 15*s.*

Sir Lucas Pepys, Physician-General, 40*s.* per diem £ 730 0 0

Mr. Keate's pay as Surgeon-General,

40*s.* per diem £ 730 0 0

————— pay as Surgeon to Chel-

sea Hospital 100 0 0

————— apartments, coals, and

candles 100 0 0

————— allowance in lieu of bills 900 0 0

£ 1,830 0 0

There is a singular observation in Mr. Keate's account of his own income, as Surgeon of Chelsea Hospital. The Commissioners of that institution, he tells us, thought proper to decide that, *during Mr. Keate's life*, the allowance, instead of bills for surgical cases and operations, should be 900*l.* per annum, to be reduced to *his successor* to 700*l.* (See Fifth Report, p. 95).

Now I should like to know why the income, excepting in so far as the place may be considered a sinecure, should be reduced to Mr. Keate's successor, in whose time, according to the usual progression of things, the value of money in proportion to the necessaries of life, will have inevitably diminished.

Thus it appears that, had not all the appointments been less or more of the sinecure kind, the Physician-General would have had much reason to complain. For besides that his patronage is comparatively very small, as one to three with Mr. Keate, and one to five with Mr. Knight, an Inspector of Hospitals (Mr. Young) has been allowed to retire with more pay than the Physician-General (see Fifth Report, p. 98); and even the *Assistants* to the Surgeon-General and Inspector-General (as full Inspectors) have incomes considerably larger than the principal Officer of the Department. But it is not rational to believe that these insults and injuries would be tamely endured by Sir Lucas, were he not able amply to console himself by the extensive patronage which he enjoys over the medicines and hospital stores: (See 5 Report, *passim*).

In Mr. Keate's department the abuses have been so very gross that *an Hospital-Staff has been appointed to places without Hospitals*, and *a Staff and Hospitals have been established where there were no patients*. Dr. Borland says, "In the early part of this war there were General Hospitals with establishments of Officers, Stewards, Nurses, &c. *without a single patient*; Chatham, for

“ instance, was completely equipped. At other places,
 “ Dunmow in Essex, for example, Principal Medical
 “ Officers were appointed *in anticipation of Hospitals in-*
 “ *tended to be established.*” (See Fifth Report, p. 160).
 “ We cannot omit to observe,” say the Commissioners
 of Military Enquiry, “ that the continuance of these ex-
 “ pensive establishments seems to have been unknown
 “ at the War Office; for we find that, on the 12th Nov.
 “ 1804, Mr. Keate was questioned relative to the ap-
 “ pointment of Principal Medical Officers to two of the
 “ places, when it appears that there were no General
 “ Hospitals at the parts at which they were respectively
 “ stationed.” (Fifth Report, p. 25). We are even in-
 formed, that the Commander in Chief has occasionally
 thought it necessary to reprove Mr. Keate for frequent
 unnecessary promotions. (Fifth Report, p. 19).

ON THE PERNICIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF AN UNDUE INTERFERENCE WITH PRACTICE, &c.

It is to be presumed that no man enters the service
 without being qualified for the exercise of his profes-
 sion. If he has a Degree from an University, or a
 Diploma from a College of Surgeons, it ought in pro-
 priety to be deemed a sufficient qualification, if the
 Colleges and Universities granting them are acknow-
 ledged as possessing the necessary authority. This, how-
 ever, is not deemed sufficient by the Medical Board.
 They must have their own *modes of examination*, and
 their own *tests of fitness*, which they render, like all
 their other rules and regulations, as subservient as possi-
 ble to the main business of jobbing. They not only do
 not deem the usual legal certificates of qualification to
 confer sufficient claim for admission into the service;

but these men, convicted as they are of ignorance, consider the candidates, after admission, as unfit for practice without the aid of Inspectorial advice. It augurs badly of the appointments made by the Medical Board that they do not consider any of their Officers worthy of being trusted without an Inspector at his heels. Their system is, in this respect, no less insulting than it is injurious, and as has been shewn unauthorised.

The Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors of Hospitals seem invariably to consider themselves as entitled to interfere in the practice of all inferior Officers, although, before they were so numerous, the Medical Board did not consider the Chief Inspector as having that right in the case of the Physicians. In an official note of the Army Medical Board to Lord Amherst, Commander in Chief, in May, 1794, they say, “Should the Inspector attempt to interfere with the practice of any Physician in any Hospital, he would greatly exceed the limits of his office, &c.*” Of late years Mr. Knight and his Deputies seem to have thrown off all restraint upon this subject; for we are informed by Dr. Borland (Fifth Report, p. 159), “In Jersey, not three years ago, a Surgeon to the Forces and two Regimental Surgeons, were removed from their situations, in consequence of a special report *made by me* of their inefficiency.” Now if we had the certainty that Dr. Borland was himself efficient, and consequently a good judge of the merits of others, it could scarcely be right, unless we were also assured that he was more exempt than other men from passions and prejudices, that any Medical man should be removed from his situation *on his report*, and *without a trial*. I observe a similar fact acknowledged by Mr. Knight, with respect to himself, in

* See Mr. Keate's Observations on the Proceedings and Report of the Special Medical Board, &c. p. 154.

one of his examinations. But what must be thought of the justice, propriety, and effect of these proceedings, when we know that Mr. Knight and Dr. Borland, who are suffered to regulate the practice of Regimental-Surgeons, are partisans of the extraordinary practice of Dr. Jackson, the fatal consequences of which gave rise to the appointment of the Special Commission to the Isle of Wight, in 1801? I have myself heard the Inspector-General in an Hospital at Chelmsford, speak in the highest praise of a person for having taken away 170 ounces of blood in a case of Ophthalmia. As the merits of this practice is a matter of some importance to the British Army, while the present Inspector-General remains in office, I think it necessary to make a few observations on it. Dr. Vetch, in his account of the Ophthalmia, &c. (p. 97), compliments Mr. Knight with having proposed the most *decided antiphlogistic regimen*, and above all, the use of the lancet, far beyond what had been formerly thought of. It would certainly require all the ingenuity, and indeed, the situation of a modern Inspector-General, to venture much beyond what has been formerly thought of in this line. It is a line of achievement, in which such wonders have been already performed, that it might be thought almost impossible for the present generation to surpass in prowess their predecessors. "In many," says Dr. Vetch, quoting Mr. Knight's practice (p. 100), "fifty or sixty ounces must be taken away *to relieve the pain or bring on syncope!*"

The Inspector-General, no doubt, expects that all the young men in the service should receive with implicit deference, this doctrine of his, if doctrine it can be called; and he who is most zealous in manifesting his approbation, will of course be rewarded with promotion and with smiles.

In Dr. Vetch's publication, and which, until I am otherwise informed, I shall consider as containing a

correct sketch of the Inspector-Generals opinions and practice, we find this extraordinary remark “in every case where such practice is employed, however violent the *tendency* of the disease may be, its *fatal termination* will infallibly be prevented, &c.” Now I can easily conceive that any, the slightest, disease may be rendered, in many instances, fatal, by an improper mode of treatment. But this is the first time I ever knew it proclaimed, even by inference, that the disease called Ophthalmia has of itself any tendency to a fatal termination*. So much indeed am I persuaded of the contrary, that, did I happen to loose a patient in that disease, I should impute it entirely to my own ignorance of the nature of the malady, which I had by improper treatment converted into a fatal disorder. If that treatment had consisted of the abstraction of fifty or sixty to one hundred and sixty or one hundred and seventy ounces of blood, I should by no means be surprised to find that one fourth, one third, or even one half of my Ophthalmic patients died; nor should I think it any sufficient exculpation of my conduct to quote the authority of the Inspector-General for so extraordinary a practice.

As the Inspector-General, although with independent and reflecting men, he may not be regarded as any very great authority, cannot fail to have some influence over those whose destinies he in some measure controuls, it is more especially incumbent on him not to adopt at random, or to recommend, by his example, a mode of practice, which, if it have not the positive merit of being useful, cannot have the negative merit of being harmless. Correctness on this head is the more particularly necessary on his part, as when he takes the field, the active

* In the table of deaths, which occurred in the Indian Army of Egypt, in 1801, as given by Dr. M'Grigor, in his Medical Sketches of that Expedition, not one is imputed to Ophthalmia.

nature of his interference does not always leave to his subordinate Officers the alternative of adopting or rejecting the doctrines which he may have thought proper to espouse. If his idea is, that the patient should be run through in *quarte*, woe be to his promotion who dares to run him through in *tierce*.

But this is not all. Besides the influence of his recommendation and example, upon persons whose promotion he has the power of advancing or retarding at pleasure, Mr. Knight it would appear has thought proper to assume an active and positive controul over Regimental Hospital practice, *considering it part of his duty*.

We are not informed whether it be on any other authority than his own that the Inspector-General "considers it as a part of his duty," to "judge of the propriety of the practice of Regimental-Surgeons; and of his Assistant Dr. Borland, to conduct the correspondence with those Surgeons upon *Medical practice*." (See Bancroft's Exposure and Refutation, p. 9). Knowing the fact, however, we cannot be surprised that the "very last monthly returns (those made up to the 20th March, 1808) had exhibited the deaths of between 400 and 500 men in the four preceding weeks, *a degree of mortality which had then never occurred in this kingdom, &c. (Ibid)*. This gives at the rate of from 5200 to 6100 annual deaths in the Army at home; and it does not appear immoderate to calculate about double that number in all our Colonies abroad. It is in hot climates, and on active service especially, that this practice, unhappily authorised by the Medical Board, is so peculiarly destructive. The calculation then that 15000 of our soldiers die annually both at home and abroad, I shall, upon these data, assume as being within the truth: and, considering the ignorance of the Medical Board respecting hot climates and active service, in which the

greatest sum of sickness and casualties occur, as well as the system of favoritism upon which they have uniformly acted, I think it is very fair to conclude that, under a proper system, and with proper men at the head of the department, four thousand lives out of fifteen thousand would be annually saved to the State.

If these returns be not sufficient proof of the evil consequences of the practice in question, the reader is requested to peruse the Letters of Dr. M'Laurin, and others, to the Physician and Surgeon-General (published by Mr. Keate in his Letter to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry and to be found in the Medical Observer, vol. iii. p. 225 to 240) respecting a similar practice in the Depot Hospital, at the Isle of Wight. Is it not strange that Mr. Knight, and Dr. Borland, the faithful disciple of Dr. Jackson, whose practice at the Isle of Wight was condemned in the most unqualified manner by the Physician and Surgeon-General, should be now, by their connivance, suffered to constitute themselves (for they have no authority for so doing) the dictators of the practice of Regimental-Surgeons? Does this evince a due regard on the part of the Physician and Surgeon-General for the health and lives of the British Army?

Having animadverted sufficiently for my present purpose on the fitness of Mr. Knight for this part of what *he considers his duty*, it may be proper that I should say a few words respecting the qualifications of his Deputy, Dr. Borland.

For this purpose it will be sufficient to give a few specimens of Doctors Jackson and Borland's practice, as given in the Appendix to Mr. Keate's Observations on the Proceedings and Report of the Special Medical Board, &c. (p. 145, 6, 7, 8).

*Extract from a Prescription-Book of the Depot Hospital,
marked 5. August 13, 1801.*

* Samuel Rogers admitted. Pneumonia.

† V. S. ζ xxx.

Baln. tepid

Calomel gr. x. Pulv. Jacob. gr. vj. Stat.

Mist. Purg. part. vicib. post.

Dennis Bryan admitted. Pneumonia.

V. S. xxv.

Baln. tepid

Calomel gr. x. Pulv. Jacob. gr. vj. Stat.

Mist. purgans. part. vicib.

Thomas Arberry admitted. Weak and consumptive.

Haust. anodyn, æther.

Luke Mahoney admitted. Fever.

V. S. ζ xxv.

Baln. tepid & frigid

Haust. emetic

Mist. Purg. post. vel vespere.

Peter Mallone admitted. Fever.

Medic. ut Mahoney.

Pat. Neil admitted. Fever.

Medic. ut Mahoney.

* On the evening of the same day (13th August) the following additional remedies were ordered for Rogers and Bryan, in the same Book.

V. S. oz. xij.

Episp. part aff.

Calomel & P. Jacob. ā ā gr. vj.

† In all these prescriptions the letters V. S. signify Venæ Section.

No. III.

*Extract from a Prescription-Book, marked 5. August 3,
1801.*

John Thomson admitted. Fever.

V. S. \mathfrak{z} xxv.

Baln. tepid. & frigid

H. Emetic.

Wm. Turner, 86th. admitted

V. S. \mathfrak{z} xij.

Natr. Vit. \mathfrak{z} iss.

Wm. Cameron admitted. Erysipelatous.

V. S. xv.

Natr. Vit. \mathfrak{z} ij.

Baln.

Vespere

V. S. \mathfrak{z} xv.

P. Dover. \mathfrak{z} j.

Dennis Carnigan admitted. Fever.

V. S. \mathfrak{z} xx.

Baln. tepid & frigid

Pulv. Purg. fort.

Vespere

Calom. et Pulv. Jacob. $\bar{a}\bar{a}$ gr. vj.

Nitr. gr. x.

John Smith admitted. Pneumonia.

V. S. \mathfrak{z} xxv. *vel ad deliquium*

Baln. tepid.

Natr. Vit.

Episp. later dolent.

David Horn admitted. Feverish.

V. S. \mathfrak{z} x.

Baln. tepid & frigid

Pulv. purgans.

Wm. Greenhalsh admitted.

V. S. \mathfrak{z} xxv.

Haust Emet.

Baln. tepid. & frigid

Calom. gr. viij. Pulv. Jacob. gr. vj. omn \mathfrak{z} tia hor.

John Davis admitted. Pneumonia.

V. S. \mathfrak{z} xxv.

Baln. tepid.

Emp. Episp. Pector.

H. Purgans.

Vesp. Calomel & P. Jacob. \bar{a} \bar{a} gr. vj. opii gr. ss.

Wm. Morris admitted. Fever.

V. S. \mathfrak{z} xx.

Baln. tepid. & frigid.

Haust Emet.

Extract from the same Book, August 17, 1801.

Thomas Walsh admitted. Fever.

V. S. \mathfrak{z} xxv.

Baln. tepid. & frigid

Haust Emet.

Calomel gr. xij. Pulv. Jacob. gr. vj. \mathfrak{z} hor.

Wm. Tunberry admitted. Fever.

V. S. \mathfrak{z} xv.

Baln. tepid. & frigid

Mist. purg. part. vicib.

Wm. Powney admitted. Fever.

V. S. \mathfrak{z} xx.

Baln. tepid. & frigid

Haust Emetic.

Richard Dean admitted. Fever.

V. S. \mathfrak{z} x.

Baln. tepid. & frigid

Mist. purgans.

David Kewear admitted. Fever.

V. S. \mathfrak{z} xxv.

Baln. tepid. and frigid

Haust Emet.

Calom. gr. x. pulv. ant. gr. vj. apud horam quintam.

George Maddox admitted. Fever.

V. S. \mathfrak{z} xvij.

Baln. tepid. & frigid

Haust Emetic

Vespere

Calom. gr. x. P. Antim. gr. vj.

M^cWilliams admitted. Fever.

V. S. \mathfrak{z} xxv.

Baln. tepid. & frigid

Calom. gr. x. Pulv. Jacob. gr. v. & rep. post hor. duas

Vespere

Ol. Ricin. \mathfrak{z} iss.

Episp. Magn. Ventricu

Enema Purgans

Baln. tepid

Camph. gr. v. Opii gr. ss.

P. Jacob. gr. vj. M. sumat unum 2d. horis

Gill Wine *.

* The inconsistency of prescribing wine, together with such violent de-

Richard Walker admitted. Fever.

V. S. \mathfrak{z} xx.

Baln. tepid. & frigid

Haust Emet.

Mist. purgans. part. vicib. vespere.

David Jones admitted. Fever.

\mathfrak{z} xv.

Baln. tepid. & frigid

Pulv. Purgans.

Vespere

Ol. Ricin. \mathfrak{z} 1 gs. Tinct. Opii Camph. \mathfrak{z} j.

Episp. Nuchæ.

Enema Purgans.

Camph. gr. Opii. gr. ss.

Pul. Jacob. gr. vj. M. sumat unum 2d. horis.

Gill Wine.

FARTHER SPECIMENS OF DR. BORLAND'S PRACTICE AND ERUDITION.

As the merit or demerit of this practice is of some importance to the army, while Dr. Borland is suffered, under Mr. Knight, to exercise the usurped authority of controuling Regimental practice, I shall give another extract from Mr. Keate's Observations on the Proceedings and Report of the Special Medical Board, (page 112 note).

“ Had Dr. Jackson abstained from this unwarrantable
“ boasting of Dr. Borland's education, I should have
“ been silent on that subject; but this attempt to *mis-*
“ *lead the Commander in Chief* by improper and offen-

pletions as were ordered in the instances of M^r Williams and Jones, will not escape the notice of Medical readers.

“sive comparisons ought not to pass unnoticed*. Of
 “ Dr. Borland’s proficiency, as well in medicine as in li-
 “ terature, the books used by him and Dr. Jackson in the
 “ Isle of Wight will afford conclusive evidence. From
 “ the prescriptions written in them by the former, the
 “ following examples have been copied *literatim*.

“ July 18. Simpson.

Ung. Merc. pro. Capitem.”

“ July 19. Davis.

Empr. Episp. duas ad cruris internis.”

“ July 24. Hatfield. Post. v. s. ad 3 xij.

Haust. Æther. Anod. 3 ti. horis.

1 Pint Rum Punch.

Episp. duas ad cruras internas.”

“ July 24. Leaker.

Episp. dua applicr. ad Temporum.”

“ July 25. Kelly.

Ungt. Merc. f. 3ij.

Super femores omni nocte.”

“ July 30. Harvey.

Inungr. Ungt. Hydr. 3ij.

Super abdomen omni nocte.”

“ Augt. 1. . Crabtree.

Abdrantur Capilli et applicatur Versicatorium
 magnum per totam capitem, 1 Pint Porter, 1
 Gill Wine, Omittr. omnia medicamenta.”

* The attempts to mislead the Commander in Chief in this department have been no less general than they have unfortunately been successful.

“ Augt. 6. Sutton.

Calom. gr. v. Statim vespere apud horam sextam
Sumt Telæ Arachnæ gr. viij. apud horam de-
cimam gr. viij, & cras mane apud horam sex-
tam incipr. Sumere gr. x. omni hora—usque
ad temporem visitationis.”

“ Augt. 7. Sutton.

Very slight attack and fever this morning.—
Measles shew themselves—uncertain whether
the re-action of another disease upon the
system, or the power of the cobwebs has
produced effect,”

“ By this curious observation, Dr. Borland appears to
“ have believed that *cobwebs* might produce the *measles*.”

“ I could, were it expedient, easily extend the num-
“ ber of these examples. That they must have fallen
“ under the daily observation of Dr. Jackson cannot be
“ doubted; and we are therefore naturally led to ask,
“ whether he was himself so ignorant as not to be sensi-
“ ble of the evidence which they afford, or so regardless
“ of the truth, and likewise of his duty to the service,
“ as, in defiance of that evidence, to assert what he knew
“ to be false *for the purpose of deceiving His Royal*
“ *Highness?*”—The Medical Board appear to have consi-
dered themselves as entitled to the exclusive privilege
of deceiving his Royal Highness.

Here we have a most curious morceau, being an epi-
tome of Drs. Jackson and Borland's practice, and we
have a right to conclude of Mr. Knight's, since he consi-
ders the latter Gentleman as a worthy representative,
and legitimate Deputy. The practice, whatever be the
disease, consists in first bleeding, then bathing, alternately
cold and hot, next vomiting, afterwards purging, then
blistering, and finally sweating, *all in the same day, al-*

most in the same breath. These applications were to be succeeded by the very ingenious, and no less efficacious remedy, known to the ancients under the title of Tekæ Arachnæ, or cob-webs. The succession, in which these powers were applied has been various, but the *priniplec* appears to have been always the same. The disease was to be attacked by storm, and no quarter was to be given. If it could not be extracted from the veins, it was to be starved out by cold or scorched by heat; and lest these means of extirpaton should fail, it was to be sought for in the stomach, driven from the bowels, forced through the pores, or extracted from the skin. Finally, after being hunted from all parts of the body, it was to be cunningly caught, like a fly, in a spider's net. Certainly the disease must have been obdurate, from which the body could not be disenchanted by such various and powerful agents. From this loose mode of prescribing, it does not appear to have entered the heads of these extraordinary practitioners that, unfortunately the misuse of agents themselves may produce disease at least equal to that, which they are capable of removing. But *such are the notions of the self-created directors of our Army Regimental Practice!*

And now, Sir Lucas, let me address myself to you, in your capacity of President of the College of Physicians. Do you think it is either decent or honest to wink at proceedings, in the army, of which you would consider it your duty to take cognizance in civil life? If you should say that you do not consider that described as mal-practice, I will ask you, Why you united with Mr. Keate in making such representations against the practice of Dr. Jackson, of whom Mr. Knight and Dr. Borland are but imitators, as occasioned the appointment of a Special Board for the purpose of enquiring into its effects? That Board made a report, which I certainly agree with Mr. Keate in reprobating. But Dr. Jackson

was removed; and this was quite sufficient to shew your opinion and that of the Surgeon-General respecting his practice. The Surgeon-General has, in his late publications, still more unequivocally censured the practice of Drs. Jackson and Borland. That of Mr. Knight we know to be precisely the same. Now, how you and Mr. Keate can explain to the public, or attempt to reconcile to your own consciences, the circumstance of your connivance at the unauthorised controul, exercised by such practitioners as Mr. Knight and Dr. Borland, over the practice of Regimental Surgeons, and indeed the whole Officers of the Department, baffles my ingenuity to discover.

We shall be glad to hear your explanation, Sir Lucas, or that of the Surgeon-General, as he appears to be the most ready writer. The ingenuity of Mr. Keate, who is known to be a dexterous sophist, may be able to reconcile such contradictions; for, after giving a great many more specimens, in derision of the practice and erudition of Drs. Jackson and Borland, he declares, that neither he nor the Physician-General delivered “ *any opinion concerning what is commonly meant and understood by the words, practice, or Medical practice, as employed by Dr. Jackson at the Depot;*” and that their “ *observations were confined to the effects of his alterations in the established diet table, and his abstractions from these articles of comfort and nourishment, which are generally denominated extras in the tables, i. e. wine, porter, eggs, &c.*.*” It would be an insult to the common sense of the reader to comment on this sophistry. Are not diatetics then a part of medical treatment?

* Vide Mr. Keate's Observations on the Report of the Special Medical Board, p. 114, note.

ACTS OF INDIVIDUAL INJUSTICE, TY- RANNY, AND OPPRESSION, COMMITTED BY THE MEDICAL BOARD.

Case of Dr. ROBERT GORDON.

At a General Court Martial, held at the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, on Wednesday the 15th Day of February, 1804, by virtue of a Special Warrant from his Majesty, bearing date the 10th Day of February, 1804.

PRESIDENT,

Right Hon. Lieutenant-General HENRY EDWARD FOX.

Major-General Charles Barton, 2d
Regiment Life Guards.

Lieut.-Colonel Frederick Charles
White, 1st Reg. Foot Guards.

Lieut.-Colonel Sherborn Stewart,
1st Regiment Life Guards.

Lieut.-Colonel Joseph Fuller,
Coldstream Regiment of Foot
Guards.

Lieut.-Col. Hon. John Wingfield
Stratford, Coldstream Reg. of
Foot Guards.

Lieut.-Colonel Lord Charles Ben-
tinck, 1st Reg. Foot Guards.

Lieut.-Colonel Stephen Peacocke,
3d Reg. Foot Guards.

Major-Gen. William Earl of Ban-
bury, 3d Reg. Foot Guards.

Lieut.-Colonel John Dalrymple,
3d Regiment Foot Guards.

Lieut.-Col. George Hart Dyke,
Coldstream Reg. Foot Guards.

Lieut.-Colonel Matthew Chitty
Darby Griffith, 1st Reg. Foot
Guards.

Lieut.-Col. Terence O'Loughlin,
1st Reg. Life Guards.

Lieut.-Col. Montague Isaacson
Durnford, 3d Regiment Foot
Guards.

Major George Calland, 2d Reg.
Life Guards.

JOHN AUGUSTIN OLDHAM, Deputy Judge-Advocate-
General.

The several Members of the Court being duly sworn, and the Judge-Advocate also sworn,

Doctor ROBERT GORDON, Physician to the Forces, came Prisoner before the Court, and the following charge was exhibited against him, viz.

“ Writing a letter, conceived in the most disrespectful and highly offensive terms to the Surgeon-General, *his superior Officer** in the Medical Department, dated the 23d of January, 1804, to the prejudice of good order and Military discipline.”

Doctor GORDON admitted himself to be a Physician to the Forces, and to have been so at the period specified in the charge.

Thomas Keate, Esq. Surgeon-General to the Army, attended in order to conduct the prosecution; but before he entered upon the proof of the charge, took occasion to express his regret at the necessity of appearing to prosecute a gentleman of Dr. Gordon's *long services*, which nothing but a sense of his duty, as Surgeon-General to the Army had induced him to do; and, *being now sworn*, deposed, that while Dr. Gordon was on duty at Dunmow, in Essex, without any previous correspondence between them, or any previous dispute with him, and not having the least animosity or rancour towards him, he received a letter from him, which he is very sorry to say, gave occasion to his application for an appeal to a General Court Martial.—Mr. Keate now produced the letter which he had received from Dr. Gordon, and which being readily admitted by Dr. Gordon, was read, viz.

* There being in effect no Medical Board, and the Physicians to the Forces being subject to the controul of the Physician-General *only*, Mr. Keate could not have been Dr. Gordon's *superior Officer*, which ought to have rendered the charge null and void.

“ *Dunmow, Jan. 23, 1804.*

“ SIR,

“ Instead of paying all due attention to my
 “ services as the Army Medical Board promises by the
 “ letter of their Secretary of the 8th of November last,
 “ and promoting me (which I have every claim to), you
 “ have thought proper to insult me, and, indeed, every
 “ Physician on the Staff.—Your letters are transcribed
 “ into an Orderly Book, which is handed to me by one
 “ of the servants of the Hospital you sent down here,
 “ wherein I find an Inferior Officer is to direct or com-
 “ mand me, *under the pompous denomination of Prin-*
 “ *icipal Medical Officer.*—Now, Sir, this is a gross in-
 “ sult, a perversion of all established rank and order, in
 “ contempt of the very fountain of honor, even the
 “ King’s Majesty, an attempt to set aside his Com-
 “ mission.—To add to the indignity, the man you have
 “ so exalted was scarce in existence when I entered
 “ the service.—It is full time this farce was concluded,
 “ this mockery of all justice was done away in the same
 “ public manner, for depend upon it this never can be
 “ submitted to, and if persisted in must sooner or later
 “ come to issue before a General Court Martial, or be
 “ remedied in some shape.

“ I remain, Sir,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ ROBERT GORDON.”

T. Keate, Esq. Surgeon-General,

&c. &c. &c.

Mr. Keate observed he should not comment upon this letter, but leave it entirely to the consideration of the Court, reserving to himself an opportunity of replying, if he found it necessary, to any matter which Dr. Gordon might bring forward in his defence.

Q. (*By desire of Dr. Gordon*). “ Was Mr. Grant appointed Principal Medical Officer at Dunmow ?

A. “ Yes.”

Q. “ Was that appointment of Mr. Grant, as Principal Medical Officer, consonant to his Majesty’s instructions respecting the Medical Officers on the Staff ?

A. “ Yes.” (*Mr. Keate, recollect, was upon oath.*)

Mr. Keate produced a copy of a letter to him, dated 5th April, 1802, from Mr. Lewis, the then Deputy Secretary at War, and explained, that it would appear by the regulations therein established, that the appointments of the Head of the Hospitals, or Principal Medical Officer, were synonymous, and that the regulation was adopted by the Commander in Chief, *at the recommendation of the Medical Board*—but Mr. Keate having mislaid the original letter.

William Stikeman, Esq. from the Office of his Majesty’s Secretary at War, being sworn, produced a book of that Office, and deposed that there appears in that book an entry of a letter, dated the 5th of April, 1802, addressed to Mr. Keate and the Officers of the Medical Board, of the same tenor as the copy produced by Mr. Keate, which was read as follows; viz.

“ *War-Office, 5th April, 1802.*

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ I have received the Secretary at War’s directions to acquaint you, it is his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief’s pleasure, that in what regards the Medical management of the General Hospitals at home, the controuling power shall be vested in the Officers specially appointed to take charge thereof, although any Officer of superior rank or date should be employed there at the same time. But as the styling the Officers appointed to such special charge ‘ *Heads of Hospitals*’ might be construed to affect the

“ general controul and superintendance of the Military
 “ Commandants, it is his Royal Highness’s further
 “ pleasure, that the Officer entrusted with the direction
 “ of each Hospital shall in future be styled ‘ *Principal*
 “ *Medical Officers*’, instead of Head of the Hospital.

“ You will be pleased to cause a communication of
 “ the above to be made to the Principal Medical Officers
 “ of the respective Hospitals accordingly.

“ I have, &c.

“ M. LEWIS.”

Sir Lucas Pepys, Bart.

T. Keate, Esq.

F. Knight, Esq.

Mr. Keate was asked by the Court,

Q. “ Did he ever communicate that new regulation,
 “ as specified in the letter just read, to Dr. Gordon ?

A. “ Not to him individually ; but a letter directing
 “ Mr. Grant to take charge of the Hospital at Dunmow,
 “ and for Dr. Gordon to act under him, he will produce ;
 “ observing that it is not usual for him to give orders to
 “ *inferior Officers* ; it is only his duty to transmit orders
 “ to the *Principal Medical Officer*, who gives the neces-
 “ sary orders to those *under him**.”

The entry of the letter alluded to was produced by Mr. Keate, and he deposed, that it was written to Mr. Grant, the Principal Medical Officer, which was read ; viz.

“ Oct. 1, 1803.

“ SIR,

“ On the other side I transmit a return of
 “ the Medical Staff, who have been ordered to Dunmow,

* Observe they had made these rules themselves. The Members of the Medical Board divided between them “ the business and the patronage” of the department, as they thought proper.

“ to do duty under your direction in the General Hos-
 “ pital about to be established there.

“ Dr. Gordon, Physician.

“ Dr. Roberts, Ditto.

“ Mr. Downing, Surgeon.

“ Mr. Balmain, Ditto.

“ Mr. Constable, Apothecary.

“ Mr. Price, Deputy Purveyor.

“ ——— Fielder, Clerk.

“ Mrs. White, Matron.

“ I am, &c.

“ Sir,

(Signed)

“ T. KEATE.”

J. R. Grant, Esq. P. M. O.
General Hospital, Dunmow.

Q. (*By the Court to Mr. Keate*). “ About what
 “ time did Mr. Grant go down to Dunmow, as Principal
 “ Medical Officer ?

A. “ Mr. Grant had a similar letter written to him as
 “ was written to Dr. Gordon in August, to repair there ;
 “ and Mr. Grant reported himself present, he certainly
 “ believes, in the month of September.”

The Prosecution being closed, Dr. Gordon proceeded
 on his defence as follows, viz.

“ Gentlemen of the Court Martial,

“ Perfectly sensible of the necessity of due
 “ subordination in the Army, I disclaim, in the most
 “ solemn manner, all intention of resisting lawful autho-
 “ rity by my warm remonstrance to the Surgeon-Ge-
 “ neral ; nor did I mean any thing disrespectful or offen-
 “ sive to any mortal whatever. Having no idea of any

“ *Surgeon being my superior*, but considering the Phy-
 “ sician-General as such, I certainly conceived that all
 “ professional orders to the Physicians should have come
 “ from that quarter, and to the Surgeons from the Sur-
 “ geon-General. Seeing nothing but the hand of the
 “ Surgeon-General in this grievance, and totally igno-
 “ rant of any other authority being concerned in it, I felt
 “ for myself and brethren, thus apparently placed in this
 “ state of degradation, contrary to all the old established
 “ rules and customs of the Army, which can be sup-
 “ ported by the testimony of some of the most re-
 “ spectable professional characters (old Medical Officers
 “ of the highest authority) now in Court. My mind
 “ labouring strongly under such impressions, rendered
 “ thus contemptible in the eyes of those gentlemen, and
 “ almost so in my own, *after thirty-five years service*,
 “ with some little credit to myself, and *above twenty*
 “ *years of these in the most fatal climates* to the detri-
 “ ment of health and fortune, I appeal to you, gentle-
 “ men, as possessing the nicest sense of honour, whether
 “ you would have done less in a similar situation. As
 “ to the gentleman alluded to in my letter, as exalted
 “ above me, it was the measure, not the man, I had in
 “ view; and so far from having any interested motive, I
 “ wish to God he was brought forward in a less question-
 “ able shape, by an appointment of *Assistant Inspector*,
 “ since if I am to be humbled by serving under an Officer
 “ so *much* my inferior in my profession, I cannot have
 “ the smallest objection to serve under him, if the good
 “ of the service required it.

“ ROBERT GORDON.”

John Weir, Esq. on the half-pay, as Inspector of Hos-
 pitals, was sworn, and asked by desire of Dr. Gordon,

Q. “ Has Doctor Gordon served under Mr. Weir for
 a considerable time ?

A. "Dr. Gordon was under him at Jamaica for ten years."

Q. "During the long course of service under him, did he ever discover any thing like insubordination in Dr. Gordon, or inattention to his duty?"

A. "Never."

Dr. Gordon, with profound respect, thus concludes all he can offer in his defence, trusting, that if the Court disapprove of the tenor of the letter complained of, they will rather impute it to a sense of feeling himself unnecessarily degraded, and to a momentary warmth, than to any intention of exciting insubordination.

The Court Martial is of opinion, that Dr. Robert Gordon is guilty of the charge preferred against him; viz.

"Writing a letter conceived in the most disrespectful and highly offensive terms to the Surgeon-General, *his superior Officer*, in the Medical Department, dated the 23d of January, 1804, to the prejudice of good order and Military discipline."

But taking into consideration that the circumstances of the new regulations of his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, which were signified by the Deputy Secretary at War to the Army Medical Board, had not been communicated to Dr. Gordon, and firmly believing from his assertion, that nothing but the impression of being improperly treated and degraded by having an inferior Officer placed over him, as he conceived, without due authority, could have induced him to write the letter in question, and that had the new regulations been communicated to Dr. Gordon, the Court is induced to believe, it would have prevented any remonstrance upon the subject.

The Court doth adjudge, that he, Dr. Gordon, be reprimanded in such manner as his Majesty may be pleased to direct.

H. E. Fox,
Lieutenant-General, President.

J. A. Oldham,
Deputy Judge Advocate General.

(A True Copy.)

J. A. OLDHAM.

Judge Advocate General's Office,
19th January, 1808.

Judge Advocate General's Office,
Downing Street, 29th June, 1804.

SIR,

Having had the honor of laying before the King the proceedings of a General Court Martial, holden at the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, on the 15th day of February last for the trial of Dr. Robert Gordon, a Physician to the Forces, upon a charge preferred against him of "having written a Letter, conceived in the most disrespectful and highly offensive terms to the Surgeon-General his superior Officer in the Medical Department, dated the 23d of January 1804, to the prejudice of good order and Military Discipline." Of which offence the Court Martial found him the said Dr. Robert Gordon guilty—but subjoined the following note; viz.—That "taking into consideration that the circumstances of the new regulations of His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, which were signified by the Deputy Secretary at War to the Army Medical Board, had not been communicated to Dr. Gordon, and firmly believing from his assertion that nothing but the im-

“pression of being improperly treated and degraded, by
 “having an inferior Officer placed over him, as he con-
 “ceived, without due authority, could have induced him
 “to write the Letter in question, and that had the new
 “regulations been communicated to Dr. Gordon, the
 “Court is induced to believe, it would have prevented
 “any remonstrance upon the subject.”

And did therefore adjudge that he (the said Dr. Gordon) be reprimanded in such manner as his Majesty may be pleased to direct. I am to acquaint your Royal Highness, that his Majesty is pleased to direct that Dr. Gordon be reprimanded by the Physician-General of the Army. ✕

I have the honor to be, with profound respect,

Your Royal Highness's

Most faithful and obedient Servant,

CHARLES MORGAN.

Duke of York, Field Marshall,

Commander in Chief of

His Majesty's Forces.

Instead of an order from the Physician-General, for the purpose of being reprimanded, as his Majesty directed, the triumvirate immediately constitute themselves into a Board, and in that capacity send the following order:

On 2^d July 1804 The adjutant General wrote to the Physician General directing him to draw up His Majesty's pleasure

Public Record Office

WO 3 base 321

*Army Medical Board Office,
No. 4, Berkeley Street, July 3, 1804.*

“ SIR,

“ I am directed *by the Army Medical Board* to
“ require your attendance at this Office on Thursday
“ next (July 5th) at half an hour past one o'clock.

“ I have the honor to be,

“ Sir,

“ Your most obedient humble Servant,

“ SAMUEL REED.”

*Dr. Robert Gordon,
Physician to the Forces.*

Horse Guards, 9th July, 1804.

“ SIR,

“ The sentence of the General Court Martial by
“ which you were adjudged to be reprimanded having
“ been carried into effect, I have received the Commander
“ in Chief's commands to inform you, that you are here-
“ by released from arrest, and are immediately to report
“ yourself to the *Physician General for further In-*
“ *structions.*

“ I have the honor to be,

“ Sir,

“ Your most obedient humble Servant,

“ W. WYNYARD,

“ Deputy Adjutant General.”

Dr. Gordon, Physician to the Forces.

REMARKS.

Here we see a deliberate system of persecution: A Physician to the Forcès, of 35 years standing in the service, *holding his Majesty's Commission*, is first superseded by one of Mr. Keate's droll fellows, called a Principal Medical Officer, appointed *by virtue of a War Office Letter only*. The Physician remonstrates, in a spirited but becoming manner, against this violation of his own rights, and of his Majesty's prerogative. He is brought to a Court Martial; by whom, misled by the manœuvres of Mr. Keate, he is sentenced to be reprimanded in such manner as his Majesty should direct. His Majesty was pleased to direct that he should be reprimanded by the Physician General. According to the spirit of his Majesty's order, and the opinion of the Judge Advocate, this ought to have been done by that Officer alone. But he contrived, in order to increase the mortification, that it should be done in presence of the Surgeon and Inspector-General, although, *being no Board*; and neither of the latter, in a Military point of view, being Dr. Gordon's superior Officer, it is quite obvious that they could have had nothing to do with the matter. This also clearly appears to be the interpretation at the Horse Guards, from the Letter dated 9th July, 1804, of the Adjutant-General to Dr. Gordon, after being released from arrest, directing him to apply for orders to the Physician-General *only*. But on this occasion the triumvirate adopted the usual paltry and illegal manœuvre of constituting themselves into a Board, for the purpose of more securely trampling on the rights of an individual, and issued their orders to Dr. Gordon, contrary to the obvious meaning of the Adjutant-General's Letter, in that assumed capacity, through Mr. Samuel

Reed, their *Secretary*, (see his Letter of the 3d July, 1804), although *he* (the Secretary) had too much sagacity so to designate himself. That the Court Martial, instead of a sentence of reprimand, should not have pronounced a most honorable acquittal of Dr. Gordon, for supporting his Majesty's prerogative, against a War Office Letter obtained under false pretences by the Medical Board, would surprise us, if we did not know how easy it has been for the Members of that soi-disant Board so to involve the affairs of their department in mystery, as to deceive and mislead those who are not of the profession. It is obvious, however, that even with all their efforts to deceive, the Members of the Court Martial did not consider Dr. Gordon's offence as one of any great consequence. Not so however with the Medical Board. Not yet satisfied with the triumph they, and their Principal Medical Officer, had obtained over Dr. Gordon, by this sentence, they contrived, by the grossest misrepresentations to the Commander in Chief, to get this old and experienced Officer, and worthy man, after having faithfully served his Majesty thirty-five years (much longer than any Member of the Medical Board) dismissed without a trial. It was not till after the lapse of several years that he was even restored to the half-pay of his rank; and the back pay of that period is still shamefully withheld from him.

Under any rational system, Dr. Gordon would now, in the ordinary course of promotion, have enjoyed the highest rank in the service. Was he the less fit for the highest offices, on account of having passed through all the subordinate gradations, until he had obtained the rank of Physician to the Forces? Did his experience render him less eligible than younger men? No! but Dr. Gordon had a manly, generous, and independent spirit, which could not stoop either to flatter or to bribe.

Before I quit this case, I must make one observation on the scandalous conduct of the Surgeon-General at the Court-Martial. He had the modesty to declare (I shudder when I ask, was he upon oath?) *what he could not but know not to be the fact*. He declared that the supersession of a Physician, by a Principal Medical Officer, of an inferior rank, was *according to his Majesty's regulations*, that non-descript called a *Principal Medical Officer* being, as he well knew, and as was stated by the evidence at the trial, *authorised by a War-Office Letter only*, while the Physician *holds his Commission directly from his Majesty*. Is not this a gross and shameless violation of the royal prerogative?

DR. BUFFA'S CASE.

IN the return made by the Medical Board to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, opposite to this gentleman's name, in the half-pay list, is the following curious remark: "ordered to be placed upon half-pay, and *not again to be employed*, for *improper* conduct at the Isle of Wight." (Vide Fifth Report, p. 153).

That we may understand what the Medical Board mean by *proper* and *improper* conduct, it will be necessary to state that the offence for which Dr. Buffa was *punished* was the forwarding of charges communicated to him by other Medical Officers, of peculation, embezzlement of stores, and various frauds, said to be committed at the Depot Hospital in the Isle of Wight, either by the order, or the connivance of the Principal Medical Officer, Dr. Moore. This person was stated to have frequently asserted at his table, and in public companies, that he defied all such charges; for that having paid the Surgeon-General 1000*l.* for his situation, he must support him against all accusations. The charges however came so

thick that it was thought expedient, as the best mode, *not of discovering, but of suppressing* them, to send the Inspector-General to the Isle of Wight on a *secret* investigation. There could not be a better inquisitor. The *pure, the immaculate*, Mr. Knight, who declared that “any one in *future* offering bribes *at the Office* should “incur the displeasure of the Medical Board,” is publicly accused by Dr. Buffa (see his candid appeal, &c, published in the 4th and 5th vols. of the Medical Observer) of having on this occasion *suppressed false vouchers, and other documents of fraud*.—Thus we find that crimes much worse than any for which another peculator, Dr. Boone, has been recently prosecuted, in consequence of the Fifth Report of the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, were laid to the charge of the Principal Medical Officer at the Isle of Wight; that the Surgeon-General was accused of having received bribes from him; and the Inspector-General, by the suppression of the evidence, of culpable connivance at those mal-practices—that Dr. Buffa, in a remonstrance to the Commander in Chief, offered to prove these charges, in any Civil or Military Court—that a General Court-Martial, which he demanded, was repeatedly refused him; and that the Physician General joined the other worthy Members of the Board in condemning Dr. Buffa’s conduct as *improper*; for which *reason* he was not only reduced upon half-pay, *never again to be employed*, but deprived of a Military allowance of 5s. 6d. a day granted him for previous services by his Majesty’s warrant.

All these crimes have been openly urged against the Medical Board. They were published near a twelve-month ago, and since re-published, and the Members of that Board, conscious of their guilt, have never dared to offer any thing in refutation, or to bring an action against the author, printers, or publishers of their shame. These men, thus branded with infamy, have yet the effrontery

to cling to their places, and no doubt the folly to expect that they will be suffered to remain in Office.—From the preceding specimen of their ideas of *improper* conduct, it appears to me that we cannot form any other notion of the ideas entertained by the Medical Board of *proper* conduct, than that it consists in peculation, embezzlement, fraud of every kind, bribery, and corrupt connivance.—Can we desire any better proof of this than that the men who have been accused of participating in, or conniving at, these fraudulent practices, have been retained in their situations, or promoted *, while those who have brought forward the charges, which they are, as they always have been, ready to substantiate, are punished as criminals, without a trial, without a hearing?—This was the fate of Dr. Buffa, after having been for 26 years a faithful servant of his Majesty, his “ whole time employed in administering relief, and adding to the comforts of the sick soldier; and on several occasions the Wards of the Hospital both his parlour and dining room.” Before I proceed to state the services of Dr. Buffa, and the tyranny exercised over him by the Medical Board, it may be proper here to remark that he is actually suffering imprisonment for debt, in consequence of the derangement of his affairs, occasioned by their cruel and extraordinary proceedings †.

* “ It is necessary,” says Dr. Buffa, “ that the public should be apprised, that after the Medical Board had caused my removal from the Depot Hospital, Mr. Warren, the Staff-Surgeon, was, shortly after Mr. Knight’s return from his *secret enquiry*, promoted, at the Medical Board’s special recommendation, to the rank of Deputy Inspector of Hospitals to the Forces; that Dr. Moore, the Principal Medical Officer, is suffered to retain his situation to the present day; and Mr. Graham the person alluded to in my remonstrance, as the acting Deputy Purveyor, previous to a Deputy Purveyor being added to the Depot Hospital, was also promoted, and is now permanently situated at Guernsey as Apothecary to the Forces.”

† Since this was written, Dr. Buffa’s embarrassments have terminated, and, by an act of justice of the present Commander in Chief, Sir David Dun-

In 1793, Dr. Buffa was Apothecary to the Forces at Toulon, and in 1795 in Corsica. Shortly afterwards he became Surgeon of the 24th foot at Detroit, in Upper Canada; about 1799 was removed to the 7th foot, or Royal Fuzileers, and appointed by his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent to do the duty of Assistant Inspector of Hospitals, and head of the Medical Department in North America. In 1800 he returned to England. The Medical Board refused to confirm this appointment; but after an examination, appointed him, in January 1801, Physician to the Forces, and he immediately embarked for Egypt in the Army of Sir Ralph Abercrombie. Here his wife and one of his children fell victims to the plague; and he was himself reduced to blindness. On the peace he was reduced to half-pay. On the recommencement of hostilities, he was placed again on full-pay, appointed to Chatham, and afterwards, by exchange, to the Depot Hospital, in the Isle of Wight.

The transactions at this place, which were considered *so extremely correct* by the Medical Board, as to occasion their condemnation of Dr. Buffa for *misrepresenting* them, will be best explained by some extracts from his Memorial and Remonstrance, to the Commander in Chief. (See Medical Observer, vol. 4, p. 331, &c.).

The following statements Dr. Buffa declares at the outset, that he is ready and willing to support by evidence, before any tribunal, civil, or military.

“About the 21st of September, 1803, Mr. Powell, the acting Apothecary, called upon Memorialist, when, after some general conversation respecting the economy of that Hospital, Mr. Powell assured Memorialist, that he had

das, his Military allowance has been restored to him. In this he has triumphed, as he will, by the justice of his adopted country, in respect to others of their base machinations, over the Junta composing the Medical Board.

the Principal Medical Officer so completely in his power, that he could not only have him dismissed the service, but bring him to public justice. He would (continuing to address Memorialist), be silent for the present, with respect to the most flagrant part of the Principal Medical Officer's conduct, but would only inform Memorialist what was publicly known to all his Colleagues, and what he had himself been an eye-witness of; viz. "That great
 " and various abuses were hourly committed at the Hos-
 " pital, to the injury of the sick soldier, and the public
 " at large; among which, (and these," added he, " were
 " mere trifles to others he knew of) was, that casks or
 " tubs of claret from the smugglers, had been admitted
 " into the King's stores, and by so doing the revenue de-
 " frauded; and that the said wine was appropriated by
 " the Principal Medical Officer and others to their own
 " use*.

" That a considerable portion of raisins and currants
 " were purposely condemned, as bad, when excellent, by
 " desire of the Principal Medical Officer, and converted
 " into wine for his own use; he well knowing that the
 " said ingredients were the property of the public. That
 " candles, soap, sugar†, tea, Port-wine, porter, meat, and

* The Inspector-General, on these matters being brought before him at his *secret* investigation, and substantiated by the evidence of Messrs Stewart, Powell, Harris, and the servants of the Hospital, said that he could not interfere in it, *being a matter which concerned his Majesty's Treasury*. Did Mr. Knight make a report on the subject to the Treasury? If he had, the Lords of the Treasury would no doubt have instructed his Majesty's Attorney-General to prosecute the parties. But we have not heard that this has been done.

† " A certain grocer in Newport, must confess, that it was a wonderful convenience to him, to have stores so near, that he could *borrow* chests of tea, and casks of sugar and pearl barley, when he was out of these articles, and the *distance* from London *so great* that, without such a *convenience*, he might have run the risk of *disobliging his customers*. But *exchange is no robbery!* Which may perhaps also account for so many porter barrels belonging to government, being *seen* in a brewer's yard in Newport." (See Dr. Buffa's Can-

“ bread, were daily disposed of, and drawn regularly from
 “ the hospital; and that *the Principal Medical Officer*
 “ *and acting Purveyor, received a valuable consideration*
 “ *from the butcher*, who supplied the Hospital with meat,
 “ and which was the reason why the meat was always so
 “ bad, and so many complaints made about it without
 “ any effect.

“ That one day the Principal Medical Officer, in the
 “ presence of Mr. Powell, asked the acting Purveyor, if
 “ he had any money on the public account in his hands;
 “ when the acting Purveyor replied in the affirmative,
 “ upon which the Principal Medical Officer, in words to
 “ this effect said, ‘ Then you can let me have 40*l.* or 50*l.*
 “ to stop a gap.’ And that this Officer was in the habit
 “ of drawing sums for his own use from the acting Pur-
 “ veyor, while the bills of the tradesmen remained un-
 “ paid.”

“ In January, 1804, information was given to Memorial-
 ist, that certain bedsteads belonging to the Barrack or
 Hospital Department, to the number of eighty were
 condemned, and sold for garden fences to the Staff-Sur-
 geon. This circumstance was reported by the Hospital
 Storekeeper to Mr. Powell, and to the Assistant-Surgeon,
 Harris, as an irregular transaction.

At the same time Hospital-Mate, Morton, also repre-
 sented to Memorialist, “ That large quantities of smuggled
 “ brandy and Geneva were introduced into the Hospital
 “ stores, of a very inferior kind, to make up deficiencies
 “ in those articles; and that Principal Medical Officer
 “ was not ignorant of the fact.”

did Appeal, 2d edition, published in the Medical Observer, vol. v. p. 171).
 I have thought it necessary to quote these remarks, because the two persons
 here alluded to, as commercially connected with the Hospital at the Isle of
 Wight, will hereafter appear in the shape of affidavit-men to the Medical
 Board, on particular solicitation.

“ Messrs. Stewart, Harris, and Powell, Medical Officers
 “ of the Hospital, informed Memorialist, that certain
 “ quantities of meat were charged to the public, and in-
 “ serted in the diet table, or weekly expenditure, ap-
 “ proved and signed by the Principal Medical Officer,
 “ which had never been issued to the sick, to make up
 “ deficiencies in that article.”

That Assistant-Surgeon Morton, had reported to Mr. Stewart, “ That Hospital blankets had been seen in a
 “ shop, or shops, in Newport, which Mr. Stewart re-
 “ ported to the head of the department, and of which no
 “ notice was taken.”

“ About this time the acting Purveyor left the Depot, indebted to the public accounts to a considerable amount, which, on the representation of the above Medical Officers, Memorialist represented to his superior Officer.

“ Memorialist, with the consent and approbation of Messrs, Stewart, Harris, and Powell, reported the whole in a private letter to Mr. Keate.

“ Major Gray at the same time wrote a private letter to the Secretary at War, stating that he had witnessed great abuses in the Depot Hospital, adding, that to account for Mr. Keate’s not having taking notice of Memorialist’s letter, he would mention what he had heard on that subject,
 “ That the Principal Medical Officer, had said, Mr. Keate
 “ cannot hurt me, for my present situation cost me 1000l.
 “ which Major Gray stated as given to Mr. Keate.”
 Such report was current at the Depot; and as the Principal Medical Officer had often “ intimated at dinner, and
 “ in company, that his situation cost him 1000l., he took
 “ it for granted, that the said sum went into Mr. Keate’s
 “ private purse.” On the arrival of the Inspector-General to enquire *privately* into the abuses, he first examined Major Gray, and afterwards Dr. Buffa.

“ Memorialist delivered to Mr. Knight a copy of the letter he had written to Mr. Keate, concerning the abuses

of the Hospital, and proceeded to call Mr. Powell, who confirmed and corroborated Memorialist's statement word for word. Then Mr. Harris, and lastly, Mr. Stewart, confirming in the same manner, what Memorialist had asserted he heard from those Officers; the Steward, the Store-keeper, the Clerk, the Matron of the Hospital, were afterwards called in, and brought charges against the Principal Medical Officer of a more serious nature.

“ A few days after the above enquiry, General White-
 “ lock arrived, and went to the Hospital, and there
 “ openly said,” which Memorialist pledges himself to
 prove, “ that he (the General) came down with the ex-
 “ press purpose of supporting the Principal Medical
 “ Officer, through thick and thin, and to oppress Me-
 “ morialist and Major Gray.”

He then relates some violent and brutal conduct of the Ci-devant General, with some correspondence which took place in consequence.

“ A few days after Major Gray was removed into a garrison battalion.

“ Mr. Keate was all this time very busy in making his story good at head-quarters, and succeeded so far that without any enquiry being made, or without any trial by a General Court Martial, but some influence or other, unknown to Memorialist, he obtained the sanction of your Royal Highness to have Memorialist superceded in his employment as Physician at the Army Depot; and as if this was not sufficient punishment, the Military allowance of 5s. 6d. per diem, which had been granted to Memorialist as a reward for his extra services by the Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, was most cruelly and unjustly withheld.

“ Memorialist applied to head-quarters for a General Court Martial, but to no effect, whence Memorialist only received for answer “ there was no room for
 “ either a Court of Enquiry, or a Court Martial.”

“ It is only a few weeks ago (May, 1807) that Memorialist learned of what he stood accused, and the cause of his removal from the Army Depot, by the following extract of a letter from the Secretary at War to the Lords of the Treasury, written a few days before Memorialist was placed on half-pay.

Extract of a Treasury Letter, dated 21st Oct. 1805.

“ That Dr. Buffa has acted in so reprehensible a manner, by preferring charges against his superior Officers in the Medical Department, which *upon enquiry turned out to be perfectly groundless*, that his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief has obtained his Majesty’s pleasure for suspending him in his employment; and, as a mark of his disapprobation, reducing him to half-pay; the extra allowance which has been granted him, will now of course be with-held.”

We shall presently see in what manner the Members of the Medical Board imposed upon the Commander in Chief, the War Office, and the Treasury, respecting Dr. Buffa; and their proceedings on this occasion will afford a tolerably correct specimen of their general conduct. They are means worthy of the most unprincipled intriguers that ever appeared in any age or nation.

Dr. Buffa concludes this remonstrance by accusing Mr. Keate of personal enmity, and again earnestly soliciting a General Court Martial.

Four days afterwards he received the annexed reply:—

Horse Guards, 12th Aug. 1807.

“ SIR,

“ I have not failed to lay before the Commander in Chief your letter and memorial of the 3th

“ instant, and am commanded to acquaint you that his
 “ Royal Highness cannot cause any further interference
 “ in the transactions therein alluded to, *which have al-*
 “ *ready been so fully investigated !!!*

“ I have the honour to be,

“ Sir,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ J. W. GORDON.”

Dr. Buffa, &c. &c.

“ I cannot forbear relating a curious occurrence which took place in the month of March preceding:—A gentleman, an entire stranger, called upon me respecting some private business I had with Mr. Keate, when, in the course of conversation, I frankly informed him of my intention of laying my case before the public, provided I was denied redress, and gave him my remonstrance to his Royal Highness the Duke of York to read. Having done which, he expressed a desire that Mr. Keate might see it; I had not the smallest objection; on the contrary, I wished that he *should* read it, that he and his *colleagues* might be convinced how little I was determined to be influenced or intimidated by their line of conduct towards me, *as I* disdained to act in a clandestine and underhand manner. I only wish Mr. Knight had not put it out of my power to say his principles of action are equally manly and just. But, to revert to my story,—I requested the gentleman (for I did not as yet know his name) to return the papers to me in two or three days; at the expiration of which term, instead of receiving them as I expected, to my great astonishment I was told, by a person, that in the newspaper called the Morning Advertiser, 7th March, 1803, he read the following extraordinary advertisement:—

“ Lost, on Saturday, between the hours of twelve and
 “ one, coming from Hampstead to Holborn, *twenty-four*

“ *sheets of foolscap*, tacked at the corner with a bit of
 “ red tape, the sketch of a letter to the Duke of York,
 “ signed Dr. Buffa. Whoever has found the same, by
 “ leaving it at the Stage Coach Office, Holborn, or
 “ Tottenham Court Road, shall receive half-a-guinea
 “ reward. It being of no use but to the owner, it will
 “ not be advertised again.”

“ It then occurred to me for the first time, how very remiss I had been in not enquiring the name and address of the person to whom I had entrusted the papers, fully convinced that he was, as he represented himself, the agent of Mr. Keate. I could put no other construction on the business than that I had again become the dupe of men, whose conduct had so recently proved, that no circumstance, however minute, would be rejected by them, if it could be brought to form a link in the chain of oppression they had forged to restrain the energies of an individual, always anxious to discharge the duties of his situation with alacrity and integrity. To discover the motives for this unwarrantable liberty was a task of *no great difficulty*; but to trace the man who was responsible to me for the loss of my papers, was not so easy. After many fruitless endeavours to find him out, a friend to whom I described his person, &c. informed me, that a *gentleman* answering to my description, whose name was De Maria, was an intimate friend of Mr. Keate, and lived at No. 58, in Berwick Street, Soho. I wrote immediately to Mr. De Maria, and found that my information was correct. He called upon me, made a thousand apologies for having lost my papers; but from that time to the present I have heard no more of them, or Mr. De Maria. The intention was obvious; but, fortunately this *ruse de guerre* was counteracted by my having another copy of the remonstrance, which *corps de reserve* was not taken into the calculation of possible events by the parties and their *agents*.

“ From this period till May following I continued my applications to head-quarters for redress, until, to my great surprise, on perusing the Fifth Report of the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, in the return of the Medical Staff, I observed opposite my name the following unjust remark :—“ ORDERED TO BE PLACED ON HALF-
 “ PAY, AND NOT AGAIN TO BE EMPLOYED IN CONSEQUENCE OF IMPROPER CONDUCT IN THE ISLE OF
 “ WIGHT.”

Dr. Buffa wrote to the Physician-General, who had officially signed the return, demanding a copy of the proceedings and opinion upon which the remarks and condemnation had been founded, and received for answer from the Secretary :—“ *The Board has duly replied to the reference of your Memorial to the Lords of the Treasury*.*” Here, as in all other cases in which a sacrifice is to be made, the triumvirate constitute themselves into a Board.

Extract of a Memorial presented by Dr. Buffa to the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury.

“ All your Petitioners endeavours to clear himself
 “ proving useless, he applied at head-quarters for a
 “ General Court Martial, but to no effect, whence he
 “ received for answer, there was no room for either

* “ The memorial alluded to in the above curious answer, was similar to the remonstrance submitted to the Commander in Chief, differing only in the prayer, as hereafter stated ; which it appears, had been referred by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to the War Office, and from thence to the Army Medical Board to report thereon ; which, after remaining six weeks before them, and repeated orders from the War Office to return the same, with their report, was at length reluctantly complied with ; and the *due reply* was nothing more than a *bare-faced evasion.*” (Vide Dr. Buffa's Candid Appeal, Medical Observer, vol. v. p. 162.)

“ Court of Enquiry, or a Court Martial. That no regular charge has been made against your Petitioner, but in the underhand clandestine manner above stated; no opportunity has been afforded to your Petitioner to defend himself against any specific charge to be alleged against him. Therefore, he humbly submits, that under all the peculiar circumstances of his case he has been most cruelly and most unjustly removed from his Medical employ at the Army Depot, and improperly and injuriously deprived, ever since that period, of his military allowance of 5s. 6d. per day, granted your Petitioner by this Honorable Board, for his extra services, as *per* his Majesty’s warrant, dated the 21st of June, 1805.

“ Your Petitioner therefore humbly remonstrates against the with-holding his said military allowance, and humbly petitions this Honorable Board that they will either direct a Military Enquiry as to your Petitioner’s conduct, or direct that the arrears of his said military allowance, as ordered by this Honorable Board as aforesaid, shall be paid to your Petitioner, as well as that it may be continued to him in future; or afford your Petitioner such other relief in the premises, as your Lordships, in your great wisdom and impartiality shall deem meet, and your Petitioner as in duty bound, &c.” (Vide Medical Observer, vol. v. p. 163).

It had now become necessary for the aggrieved party to assume a tone even beyond remonstrance. In a letter dated May 20th, 1808, he thus addressed the Physician-General;—

“ SIR,

“ In reply to my letters of the 5th and 17th instant, I am answered, by your direction, in a

“ letter, signed S. Reed, and nothing *more or less*,
 “ ‘ That they have been received, and that the Board has
 “ ‘ duly replied to the reference of my Memorial to the
 “ ‘ Lords of the Treasury.’

“ As my Memorial (as you are pleased to term it,
 “ but which I call my remonstrance) was not addressed
 “ to you, I did not conceive, nor could I expect that you
 “ would have said a single syllable upon that subject:
 “ but as my letter of the 5th instant was *particular*
 “ *addressed to you*, and as the purport of it went to
 “ demand the reason on which you, as Physician-General,
 “ had signed a report, that I was placed on half-pay for
 “ improper conduct in the Isle of Wight, and not to be
 “ again employed, I did both conceive and expect that
 “ you would, in common justice, have answered, com-
 “ pletely and satisfactorily, *that letter*. As you have not
 “ done so, it is but candid for me to inform you, that if
 “ you will not do me justice, I shall claim it of the
 “ country; and, therefore, unless in eight days time you
 “ assign to me the grounds on which you have framed
 “ the *report* I allude to, provided such report was made
 “ by you, I shall hold it a duty due to myself to have
 “ recourse to the law as my protector.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your most obedient humble Servant,

“ JOHN BUFFA.”

To Sir Lucas Pepys, Bart. &c.

Army Medical Board Office,

May 23, 1808.

“ SIR,

“ In answer to your letter of the 20th
 “ inst. I must refer you to the Commander in Chief’s
 “ Office for the letter to the Surgeon-General, in conse-

“ quence of the *report* made to his Royal Highness after
 “ the *investigation* at the Isle of Wight.

“ I am,

Sir,

“ Your obedient humble Servant,

“ LUCAS PEPYS.”

To Dr. Buffa.

This shuffling and evasion are completely in character. Dr. Buffa next determined to make an effort to procure a copy of the report from the *Inspector-General*.

May 18, 1808.

“ SIR,

“ I have my reasons for pressing now
 “ upon you to furnish me with a true copy of the re-
 “ port which you made to head-quarters in the year
 “ 1805, immediately on your return from the Isle of
 “ Wight, from your SECRET investigation concerning
 “ the abuses of that Hospital. The reasons of my pre-
 “ sent application, I need not now explain to you. The
 “ remonstrance I gave in, early in the last month, to the
 “ Lords of the Treasury, is now and has been before you
 “ for these three weeks past, and I feel it incumbent upon
 “ me to take every legal means to find out whether your
 “ report at head-quarters *is founded on truth*, and if it
 “ *exactly corresponds with the evidence of Messrs. Stewart,*
 “ *Powell, Harris, and the servants of that Hospital, par-*
 “ *ticularly the Matron and the Purveyor's clerk, to en-*
 “ *quire what you have done with the false vouchers, and*
 “ *other documents of fraud,* delivered to you in trust by
 “ the Purveyor's Clerk in my presence. Surely nothing
 “ has been suppressed to screen the guilty and punish the

“innocent! In such a case you are fully aware, that the
“laws of my country will give me ample redress.

“I have the honor to be,

“Sir,

“Your most obedient humble Servant,

“JOHN BUFFA,”

To Francis Knight, Esq.

May 19th, 1808.

“SIR,

“I *hasten* to answer your letter of yesterday, calling for a *true* copy of the report made to headquarters, in 1805, on the subject of MY * Enquiry into the abuses *said* to exist at the Depot Hospital in the Isle of Wight. My report contained only the detailed evidence that came before me, and did not include any opinion or judgment of my own. The whole was submitted to the Commander in Chief’s office, from which alone you can obtain the copy you seek.

“I am, Sir,

“Your most obedient humble Servant,

“F. KNIGHT.”

Dr. John Buffa.

So much for the candor of Mr. Knight. Dr. Buffa now thought it necessary to apply to the Commander in Chief’s office for a copy of this memorable report.

* “When Mr. Knight talks of *my enquiry* and *my report*, it is necessary for me to inform the reader, that Mr. Knight *alone* undertook the grand labour of *privately* investigating the abuses of the Depot Hospital. His confidential clerk, Mr. S. Reed, took down the depositions. The public will judge how matters were afterwards disposed of, and how far the remarks in my letter of the 18th of May are justifiable.” (See Dr. Buffa’s *Candid Appeal*, *Medical Observer*, vol. 7. p. 166).

May 25, 1808.

" SIR,

" In consequence of my various applica-
 " tions to the Army Medical Board, requesting a true
 " copy of the report made to head-quarters, concerning
 " the abuses at the Depot Hospital, Isle of Wight, I am
 " referred, both by Sir Lucas Pepys and Mr. Knight,
 " to the Commander in Chief's office, for the proceedings
 " and report I have demanded of them; I therefore take
 " the liberty to inclose both their letters for the inspec-
 " tion of his Royal Highness, and humbly request that
 " you will be pleased to order me a copy of the pro-
 " ceedings and report in question.

" I have the honour to be,

" Your most obedient, faithful,

" Humble Servant,

" JOHN BUFFA."

To Lieut. Col. Gordon, &c.

Horse Guards, 27th May, 1808.

" SIR,

" Having laid your letter of the 25th in-
 " stant before the Commander in Chief, I am directed to
 " return to you the inclosures, and to acquaint you,
 " that his Royal Highness *has no favorable opportunity*
 " *of recommending you for employment !!!*

" I have the honor to be,

" Sir,

" Your obedient Servant,

" I. W. GORDON."

Dr. Buffa, &c.

" Was it employment I asked for? I cannot conceive
 " how any part of the preceding letter could be construed

“ into such a request. The answer was certainly in-
 “ tended for some *other* person who had applied to be
 “ employed, and was, no doubt, *by mistake* directed to
 “ me.”

June 5, 1808.

“ Dr. Buffa not having received any answer
 “ to his letter of the 30th ult.* wishes to be informed, if
 “ Mr. Knight can, or *will* furnish Dr. Buffa with a true co-
 “ py of the report, which Mr. Knight has thought proper
 “ to make to head-quarters, concerning the abuses at the
 “ Depot Hospital, at the Isle of Wight, after his secret
 “ enquiry in the year 1805, as the subject in question
 “ cannot now be left at rest.

“ A ready compliance to Dr. Buffa’s just and equitable
 “ demand, would save a vast deal of trouble, expence,
 “ and notoriety to all parties.

F. Knight, Esq.

Army Medical Office.

“ Mr. Knight’s compliments to Dr. Buffa;
 “ he has no answer to give to the Doctor’s letter of the
 “ 30th ult. further than to refer to his former reply of
 “ the 19th May.”

Army Medical Office,

June 6th, 1808.

If this does not display an uncommon scene of ini-
 quity, the meaning of words must have strangely altered.
 Foiled in all his attempts to obtain a trial, or even an

* The letter of the 30th of May went to inform Mr. Knight, that to him
 alone Dr. Buffa looked for a copy of the report, and not to head-quarters.

explanation, Dr. Buffa made a last appeal to the Commander in Chief, to have his military allowance restored, which was thus answered :

“ I am directed by his Royal Highness the
 “ Commander in Chief, to inform you, that he regrets
 “ your misfortunes, but cannot comply with your request.
 “ I. W. GORDON.”

Horse Guards, 1808.

There was now no alternative left for Dr. Buffa, but to lay his case before the public; and this he did about twelve months ago, in a pamphlet entitled, “ The Can-
 “ did Appeal to the British Public, of John Buffa, M. D.
 “ late Physician to the Army Depot, Isle of Wight, &c.” This work, after speedily passing through two editions, there is reason to believe, was bought up by the Medical Board; for it is now out of print. Having, however, been re-published in the Medical Observer, I am enabled to quote all the parts that are necessary to my purpose. The appeal thus concludes :

“ From what I have stated, I trust the reader will be convinced, that the power and influence of the Army Medical Board, as also the interest of others (the ci-devant Gen. Whitelocke), have been collected in all their might to screen the *guilty*, and to crush an Officer, who, unpropped by influence, and unsupported by friends, had nothing but his own conscience, and the testimony of faithful, though long and painful services, to bear him up. How, then, when it was the interest of such *parties* to suppress any public investigation of the abuses of the Depot Hospital, can it for a single moment be supposed, a person so circumstanced, should escape the persecution of such men? My weakness, as an individual, invited their secret and malicious attack, but the strength of my

cause was not so easily to be vanquished : to effect it, therefore, they had recourse to private calumny, and by that means succeeded in their vindictive purpose : thus procuring the sanction of a *sentence*, passed without trial, and acted upon without the slightest intimation of complaint, against the suffering (though innocent), object of their atrocious attack*."

But Dr. Buffa, when he published this statement as a measure of self-defence, was yet ignorant of the full extent of the iniquity to which the Medical Board have had recourse against him both in his reputation and interest : he was still ignorant of the talisman by which they contrived to frustrate all his applications for justice at the Horse Guards, War Office, and the 'Treasury ; for he could not allow himself for a moment to believe that men in their stations could have stooped to practices which would have been a disgrace to the lowest and the basest of mankind. The fact is however so, and the story is a very simple one.

It is evident, from what has been already related, that either Dr. Moore must have been disgracefully dismissed from his situation, and all the base proceedings at the Isle of Wight, which would involve the fate of the Medical Board itself, exposed, unless they could deceive the Commander in Chief, and shut up all the other avenues by which Dr. Buffa could have procured access to justice. Mr. Knight was therefore sent to the Isle of Wight on a *secret* investigation. He made a *secret* report, in which Dr. Buffa of course was represented as having made charges totally unfounded, and a person who ought not to receive the benefit of a fair trial, or any public investigation. He was therefore put upon half-pay, *never again to be employed*, and deprived of his Military allowance of 5s. 6d. a day. But this was not sufficient. It was not safe for them to rest here. Until Dr. Buffa should be to-

* Vide Medical Observer, vol. v. p. 170.

tally ruined in character and fortune, there could be no security that the Isle of Wight delinquencies would be allowed to rest in oblivion. This Gentleman, it will be recollected, is an expatriated foreigner, who sacrificed his prospects in his own, by his attachment to this his adopted country. By an English woman, of very respectable connections, whom he married at an early age, he has a numerous and interesting family, all daughters. By a second marriage, the number of those dependant on him for support were encreased. This family he was, with the natural affection of a husband and father, desirous of providing for, and educating; and for this purpose wished to obtain a permanent situation. With that view he adopted the plan which he understood to be the most usual, and the best calculated to ensure success: he frequently administered to Mr. Keate's avarice, in the shape of presents, as will be afterwards explained, and was at last, as he thought, permanently established as Physician to the Hospital at Chatham. But Dr. Buffa having, by that succession of presents, and in endeavouring to render his family comfortable in his new and as he thought fixed abode, exhausted his resources; the cessation of the presents which followed did not appear agreeable to Mr. Keate. The anxious desire of permanance, for the sake of his amiable family, which first led Dr. Buffa to incur this double expence, would have excited the sympathy of any other than the Members of the Medical Board. But no sooner had he, at a great expence, completed his establishment at Chatham; than Mr. Keate, without a reason, removed him to the Depot Hospital at the Isle of Wight, there to incur new expences by a new establishment.

It was here that the circumstances arose which rendered it the policy of those unfeeling men to obtain the ruin of Dr. Buffa. The first step in this, as I have said, was to mislead the Commander in Chief by a false report,

and the suppression of the fraudulent vouchers, which Mr. Knight got possession of at his *secret investigation*. The next was to induce the creditors of Dr. Buffa to arrest him, and particularly a Mr. Wilkins, who will presently figure as connected with the affidavit men to the Medical Board, to seize his property, and sell it for almost nothing. The nature of the legal proceedings which ensued, and which occasioned Dr. Buffa's subsequent embarrassments, will be in some measure explained by the following letter of a respectable Solicitor:—

Bedford-Row, Aug. 19, 1809.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ In compliance with your request, I
 “ send you a copy of the affidavit made by several Trades-
 “ men at Newport, for the purpose of supporting Mr.
 “ Wilkins, when he shewed cause against the rule I ob-
 “ tained for you. It was impossible for me to answer
 “ that affidavit successfully, because you were then gone
 “ to Gibraltar; but I never considered it as a matter that
 “ would have any weight with the Court of King's
 “ Bench; because it was of that kind, that there could
 “ be no possibility of punishing those who made it, ex-
 “ cept for a conspiracy. I recollected also, that most of
 “ them were Tradesmen you dealt with, because they
 “ had transmitted their bills to me, and I of course sup-
 “ posed you had promised them payment of their de-
 “ mands; but had not, from want of ability, complied
 “ with them, which would have furnished them a ready
 “ subterfuge.—It should also be recollected that Mr.
 “ Wilkins is a Banker, and these a parcel of needy
 “ Tradesmen (some of whom have since become bank-
 “ rupts), and it was not very difficult for him to prevail
 “ on them to make affidavits, where a loop-hole could
 “ be left open.—The best answer that could have been

“ given, would have been a counter-affidavit from your
 “ numerous connections, for it could never be supposed,
 “ that the want of veracity particularly afflicted you
 “ while in the Isle of Wight only. If Mr. Keate has
 “ made any use of the above affidavit, it only shews his
 “ malignity, and I should suspect that he is connected
 “ with some of them. I would recommend you to col-
 “ lect his various acts together; and which, when
 “ coupled with his open declaration to that respectable
 “ man Mr. Turnbull, ‘ *That you never should enjoy any*
 “ ‘ *thing under Government, except from your half-pay,*
 “ ‘ *while he had any power or interest to prevent it,*’ I
 “ think you will find abundant matter to support a pro-
 “ secution against him for damages. I was in hopes,
 “ that when he imposed on your facility to accept 105*l.*
 “ for what he called presents from you, and for which I
 “ would have enforced the value, if you had not ac-
 “ cepted that sum, he would have been content; but I
 “ am satisfied nothing short of your making an example
 “ of his conduct will prevent him from following up his
 “ threat, in which he has already too long succeeded.
 “ You may have any papers or letters in my possession
 “ when wanted.

“ And I remain, Dear Sir,

“ Your obedient humble Servant,

(Signed)

“ JOHN MORGAN.”

Dr. Buffa, Sloane-square.

I believe this letter affords proof quite sufficient of Mr.
 Keate's having been accustomed to receive, under the
 denomination of presents, valuable considerations from
 Medical Officers in the Army, in expectation of a suitable
 return. But the principal matter at present under con-
 sideration is the affidavits, and the use that was made.

of them. It was only very recently, and by mere accident, that Dr. Buffa discovered that those affidavits, procured from six miscreants in the Isle of Wight, all connected directly or indirectly in disgraceful commerce with the Depot Hospital, and implicated in its abuses, were the talisman by which the Medical Board imposed upon the Horse Guards, the War Office, and the Treasury, and prevented the restoration of his Military allowance. Whenever any measure of justice was in contemplation at those Offices in favour of Dr. Buffa, some Member of the Medical Board, holding up these affidavits, would cry out, "look here, Can you think of restoring his Military allowance to such a man as this, whom *our honest and respectable affidavit men* at the Isle of Wight have so roundly sworn is utterly unworthy of belief even upon his oath?" And they might have added, "would have sworn any thing else we chose, in order to ensure a continuance of their traffic with the Hospital." The bubble has now however burst. Dr. Buffa has been restored to his Military allowance; and the affidavit men, with their principals, it is hoped for the sake of justice, will not long escape the punishment due to their crimes.

On coming to the knowledge of these nefarious proceedings, Dr. Buffa immediately got two professional gentlemen to take a journey to the Isle of Wight, and enquire into the particulars. An affidavit giving the result of their enquiries I have seen; and in a letter to Dr. Buffa, inclosing it, one of these gentlemen says: "It most clearly shews that a foul conspiracy exists; and that the parties mentioned in the information *suffered themselves to become the tools of superior knaves.*"

It may be added that, probably by some similar contrivance, Dr. Buffa was recently prevented from returning to his situation of Physician to the Emperor of Morocco, to the immediate loss of Four Thousand Pounds!

CASES OF INSPECTOR STRAHAN AND MR. DUNNE.

Mr. Dunne, Assistant-Surgeon to the Forces, was superseded in 1805, when upon sick leave of absence from the West Indies, he having while there brought charges of peculation against Mr. W. Gibbs Strahan, Inspector-General of Hospitals at Barbadoes, which he asserts that he proved.

In 1797, Strahan kept an Apothecary's shop at Bridge Town, Barbadoes, and was at the same time an Ordnance Surgeon, and an Hospital Mate in the Line. In 1798 he was disgracefully dismissed for peculation from the Ordnance Department, being Surgeon and Store-keeper; notwithstanding which he was retained, and immediately afterwards promoted in the Line; it being impossible that the Medical Board should have been ignorant of his dismissal from the Ordnance. So notorious were the circumstances, that a warrant was sent to imprison Strahan, and two others, Savory and Phillips, who were his coadjutors. The two latter only were imprisoned, but afterwards allowed to escape, and left the Island. Mr. or Dr. Strahan not only continued to retain his situation in the Line, but, as if the cause of his dismissal from the Ordnance had been meritorious, was successively appointed Garrison-Surgeon, Assistant-Inspector of Hospitals, and, in 1804, Inspector-General of all the Leeward Islands!

It was while in the high station of Inspector of Hospitals at Barbadoes that Mr. Dunne repeatedly brought charges against him (one in Feb. 1804) for embezzling stores, and conniving at various mal-practices. He accused him, Cook, Purveyor's Clerk, and the Matron, Mrs. Strawbridge, of selling the Hospital Madiera wine to Mr. Phillips already mentioned, and of selling it by

the pipe in town; of hiring out for their own benefit the pioneers employed by the government at 1s. per day; of selling eggs, milk, &c. at an extravagant rate to the Hospital. He accused the Matron of publicly selling the Hospital wine and meat in the Hospital; of hiring out the Hospital servants at three bits per diem (a bit is something more than 5*d.* sterling) for washing, and of receiving their rations besides. Mrs. Matron Strawbridge, he says, confessed that she received 300*l.* a-year as her portion or share of the plunder, and acknowledged having sold the Hospital wine in June, 1803, conjointly with Cook, then Purveyor's Clerk, and *soon afterwards* (Aug. 11, 1804) *made Deputy Purveyor*. Mr. Dunne brought forward his charges repeatedly on the spot; asserts that he proved them, but that the persons appointed on the investigation, being participators of the fraud, did not pronounce any decisive opinion, and the affair was smuggled and dropped. Mr. Dunne, immediately after the investigation, was allowed to come home on sick leave of absence for six months, signified in General Orders, dated the 8th May, 1804. Before the expiration of the six months, he was superceded, after having, in vain, repeatedly offered to return to the West Indies, there to confront Inspector Strahan, and to substantiate his charges. But if there could be a possibility of the Medical Board having been at first ignorant of Strahan's disgraceful dismissal from the Ordnance Department, they could not have remained so; for Mr. Dunne made them fully acquainted with it on his arrival in Europe, in 1804; in proof of which, on the 9th of January, 1805, Mr. Keate writes him the following note:—

“ SIR,

“ I am to request that you will send me
“ the *paper* you received from Mr. Crew, at the Ordnance

“ Office, respecting Mr. Strahan, Inspector of Hospitals
“ at Barbadoes.

“ I am, Sir, &c.”

Notwithstanding this perfect knowledge, he was retained for some considerable time afterwards in the service; and is now, having, it is said, refused to obey an order to come home, in the quiet enjoyment of 20s. a day; while Mr. Dunne, for having reported his malversation and those of his coadjutors, has, like many others in a similar predicament, been superceded without a trial. Nor could he ever officially learn the cause of his being superceded, Mr. Knight declaring that his not being reinstated depends upon some objections of Mr. Keate, and Mr. Keate asserting that no reference had been made to him on the subject of his supercession; and that the recommendation to reinstatement lays with the Inspector-General. By what authority Mr. Knight has taken to himself the “business and patronage” of reinstatement, we are yet to learn. But it is obvious that the power of arbitrary supercession and reinstatement, which he and his colleagues have exercised, has established a complete despotism over the department.

Some faint idea may be formed of the trade carried on in the Hospitals at Barbadoes, from the following mock proceedings:—

Barbadoes, Feb. 9th 1804.

G. H. O.

“ H. M. Dunn informs me that the Matron
“ of the Hospital sells wine and other things from the
“ Hospital; and that she boasts of having made 3 or
“ 4000l. but defies any one to find her out; and that she

“ told him that she had influence enough (of course, with
 “ me) to send any Hospital-Mate from the Island: and
 “ that she had dined with me, and could do so when
 “ she pleased. I am therefore to desire that you make
 “ the strictest enquiry along with the two Regimental-
 “ Surgeons respecting this information, and report to me
 “ on Saturday. I have detained Mr. D. at Barbadoes.

“ I have, &c.

“ W. G. STRAHAN,

“ Inspector-General.”

Dr. Burke.

G. O. 6th Nov. 1803. *Extracts from G. O.*

A Medical Board to consist of three of the Medical Staff to inspect the accounts of the 64th Regimental Hospital for twelve months, and report accordingly.

Surgeon Glasgow under Arrest.

The report of the Medical Board. Twenty-two dozen of wine saved which was not credited from 25th August to 24th October.

There appears the following mistakes or deficiencies, 1000lb. of beef overcharged, but which the butcher owns was a mistake of his, and credit will be given.—Twenty-seven dollars.

Sixty-five gallons of wine appears to have been saved during the last muster, for which the Commissary is debtor, but which is not noticed in the account.

The Board also remarks, that the expenditures do not throughout correspond with the diet table, and which is accounted for by the issues of comforts to the convalescents, women, and children.

The whole being taken into consideration by the Commander of the Forces, and the said charges—considers Surgeon Glasgow's conduct to amount nearly, if not quite, to criminal negligence.

The same with the 65 gallons of wine not having given credit for it—also the 1000lb. of beef and 27 dollars.

The Commander of the Forces will not carry on any further proceedings, but cautions Glasgow to take care in future.

Barbadoes, 15th April, 1801.

G. H. O.

Extract.

“ The Inspector-General is much surprised to find by the report made to him by the Garrison Surgeon, Hutcheon, and Apothecary to the Forces, Toosey.”

“ That the Matron of the Hospital, Mrs. Strawbridge, has been in the habit of purchasing the orderlies *meat and wine* contrary to the King's Regulations and General Orders.

“ It also appears by the Deputy Purveyor, (Cathcart's) report, that the Matron, Mrs. Strawbridge, constantly received two bits per pound from the butcher for the orderlies meat; and that she, Mrs. Strawbridge, gave the orderlies two bits per day for their meat and wine.—By which means the butcher benefitted one bit upon every pound of meat intended for the orderlies—and Mrs. Strawbridge received all the wine gratis.

“ Mrs. Strawbridge should have prevented abuses of this sort instead of being instrumental to them.

“ The Steward of the General Hospital may suppose he is not implicated in the business, but the Inspector-General

ral considers him extremely culpable, for not drawing the quantity of fresh meat ordered, as he must have known for what purpose it was left with the butcher.

N. B. No person is allowed to swear or blaspheme in any of the Hospitals.

G. S.

Inspector-General.

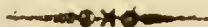
Extracted from G. H. O.—

The persons herein mentioned are still continued in their respective situations.

C. DUNNE.

Hospital-Master.

Glasgow has been since made a Staff-Surgeon; Cook has been promoted; and it does not appear that Mrs. Strawbridge has been dismissed, or otherwise punished.



CASE OF MR. WILLIAM GRAHAM.

I will here state a circumstance which would have come in better in another place, had it come timeously to my knowledge. Mr. Keate, in one of his controversial tracts*, says:—"I will not however detain my readers by farther observations respecting particular parts of Mr. Graham's *affidavit*, having some months ago, in answer to a letter from the Adjutant-General, stated reasons which must necessarily hinder me from giving credit to any evidence, which might be obtained from

* Vide Observations on the proceedings and report of the Special Medical Board, &c. By T. Keate, Esq. &c. P. 140.

“ *Mr. Graham, and more especially on any matter connected with Dr. Jackson. This statement I made when it was only in contemplation to take Mr. Graham’s affidavit; and the reasons assigned by me were connected with certain fraudulent transactions with which Mr. Graham had been charged at the Depot Hospital.*”

Here we have a person retained in the service, and promoted as Apothecary to the forces, whom the Surgeon-General not only proclaims to be, from his own knowledge, *utterly unworthy of credit upon his OATH, AND CONNECTED WITH FRAUDULENT TRANSACTIONS at the Depot Hospital*: and were not these opinions known to his colleagues? What then are we to think of men, who can deliberately entrust the lives of his Majesty’s subjects, and the custody of his Majesty’s stores, to persons whom they consider as unworthy of belief even on their oaths, and also to be connected with fraudulent transactions? When we know also that these are the identical fraudulent transactions, for denouncing which Dr. Buffa was so unjustly punished by the same Medical Board, what, in the name of common honesty, are we to think of such men? Mr. Keate, when he wrote the observations quoted, in order to be revenged of Dr. Jackson, did not perceive that he was making a complete acknowledgment of the atrocious injustice they had done to Dr. Buffa. Let us unravel the clue of this history. Mr. Keate, in another place (*Ibid*, p. 138), says:—“ I have uniformly found on trial, at various visits of inspection to the Depot Hospital that Mr. Steane’s wine, spirits, and porter, were of inferior quality to those supplied from London, and have moreover discovered, that the person who acted as Deputy-Purveyor (Mr. Graham, before stated) *while Mr. Steane furnished the Hospital with those articles, was indebted to the latter in the sum of 900*l*. at the time he was removed from that em-*

“ ployment.”—This sum I have been informed was repaid, *after Mr. Knight's secret investigation to the Isle of Wight*, but *not* by Mr. Graham.—This identical Mr. Steane, also one of the reputed delinquents in the Depot Hospital transactions, which Dr. Buffa had denounced as fraudulent, and which Mr. Knight suppressed in his secret investigation and report, we afterwards discover in an affidavit, which in fact goes to establish nothing, employed by the Medical Board to injure Dr. Buffa; while they retain in the service, and even promote Mr. Graham*, whom they themselves accuse of worse crimes than any which they have imputed to Dr. Buffa!!! Satis, superque.

MY OWN CASE.

It is with great reluctance that, in a public discussion of this kind, I bring forward any matter that has relation to myself personally. But as the circumstances, in which I was concerned with them, tend to illustrate the character and conduct of the Medical Board in the strongest manner, I think it necessary, in this view, as well as in justice to myself individually, to give them publicity.

That I may not be tedious, I shall insert but a very small part of our correspondence, such merely as will shew the total disregard of the Medical Board to the claims of experience, and their uniformity in deceiving the War Office, and endeavouring morally to assassinate those whom they had already injured beyond forgiveness.

* By the returns made to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry (see Fifth Report, p. 147), he is stated to be an Apothecary to the Forces, serving at Guernsey. This is a convenient situation from whence to carry on a smuggling concern with his old friend the P. M. O. at the Depot Hospital.

On my return from imprisonment in France, I applied, in April, 1804, to be put on the Hospital Staff of the British Army. The Medical Board, having examined and approved my pretensions, expressed their surprise that, with my experience, I should consent to enter into the lowest rank in the service, any other *as they said* being unattainable. I replied that, besides the wish, in such times, of serving my country, I had also a particular object, which might be thus forwarded—the investigation of epidemic and pestilential diseases. The Members present, (Sir Lucas Pepys and Mr. Knight) spontaneously declared that, in consideration of the circumstances stated, my promotion should be as rapid as was consistent with justice, and *the rules of the service*. At the same time they requested my signature to a written condition, of which I do not now remember the precise terms; but I very well recollect they implied the probability of repentance on the part of those entering the service, and were intended to provide against it. On my first outset, I was placed at the York Hospital, at Chelsea, where there have not unusually been from twenty to thirty Medical men to between seventy and eighty patients. (See Fifth Report, p. 204). There I did duty till the 15th of January, 1805, when I received an order from that droll fellow, called Principal Medical Officer, to proceed to Chelmsford.

On arriving at Chelmsford, I found there collected Mr. McNeil, Deputy-Inspector of the district; Dr. Roberts, Physician; the Surgeon and Assistant Surgeon of the West Suffolk Militia, and three or four Hospital Mates; being in all *seven or eight* Medical men, besides the Inspector-General, who arrived the same day, to attend about *sixty* patients of the West Suffolk Militia, part of whom, perhaps about half, were ill of a fever of the typhus kind. These patients might have been very conscientiously taken care of by the Surgeon and Assistant-Surgeon of the regiment, with the aid of proper atten-

dants. But it was necessary to give consequence to the Inspectorial system.

Here I first saw the Inspector-General in his true colours—ignorant—meddling—presumptuous. He not only interfered with the practice, dictating to the Physician, in express violation of all rule; but railed at the Medical men present, in terms which any well-bred drill Serjeant would have been ashamed to use to *his* recruits. The Surgeon of the regiment, an attentive and meritorious young man, received no quarter from him. Neither did the patients; for they underwent a species of martyrdom. The Inspectorial importance was certainly well sustained. Never did Dr. Bossy (rest his manes!) exhibit with more perfection on Tower Hill. On this occasion, I was under the necessity of entertaining some correspondence with the Inspector-General, in which he was for the moment reduced to his proper level. But his language and conduct were, upon the whole, so very unbefitting the station of any Officer, of whatever rank, that it would alone sufficiently account for the scarcity of *Medical recruits* then felt, and afterwards so much lamented by the Medical Board. Finding, shortly after my return from Chelmsford, that there was no dependence to be had upon the justice, or even the declarations of the Medical Board, and that, from what had already passed, as well as from the known character of the man, I might reckon upon the eternal enmity of the Inspector-General, operating as a perpetual bar to promotion, I sent them my resignation, which *Mr. Knight individually took upon himself to refuse accepting*. Some correspondence, and personal altercation ensued, respecting the right and forms of resignation: and I now found that the Members of the Medical Board had been so habituated to govern arbitrarily all the affairs of the department, that they never hesitated for a moment to trample upon every rule of common justice and decorum, when, as was frequently the

case, these happened to militate against their sovereign will. In announcing these refusals, Mr. Knight, upon one occasion, had the audacity to make use of the Commander in Chief's name, I am well persuaded without the smallest authority: for, on the one hand, it is impossible to suppose that the Commander in Chief would have lent his name, but through delusion, to an act of such egregious injustice as the refusal to accept the resignation of an Officer, who was also repeatedly refused promotion in his regular turn; and, on the other hand, I well knew, from the correspondence which I had held with Mr. Knight at Chelmsford, and some parts of his subsequent conduct, that he was so little tenacious of veracity, that, to serve a particular purpose, he would not scruple to make use of any name, or any means, while he thought himself in no danger of immediate detection, or, according to the forms of law, secure from punishment*.

On these grounds, and feeling that, under so vile a system, my experience could neither be of advantage to the service or myself, I should have considered it due to my own honor to have persisted in my resignation, regardless of the objections of Mr. Knight. But rumors having existed about this period, of the appearance of epidemic and pestilential (commonly, but erroneously called contagious) diseases, in various parts of the country, especially among the French prisoners, and the Artillery at Woolwich, and also among the troops of the line, I thought it a paramount duty, on such an occasion, to renew the offer of my services; and for that purpose, falling into the common error of considering these men

* Mr. Knight I consider as by far the most mean and contemptible of the three personages who compose the Medical Board; and if he should not think that I have already given sufficient proof of his possessing in a superior degree the qualities which usually distinguish the upstart, I engage to convict him of want of veracity under his own hand.

as a board, I addressed *the President and Members of the Medical Board* to the following effect:—"That in consequence of the rumors which had recently prevailed of the appearance of malignant fevers, in various parts of the country, I should, at such a period, feel a particular reluctance in withdrawing from the service, provided I could remain in it with any prospect of being really useful: that my experience of these diseases, both in the East and West Indies, had been considerable; and soliciting that, if these diseases did exist within the jurisdiction of the Medical Board, they would, for the good of the service, give me the opportunity of applying the fruits of that experience to any portion of his Majesty's army."

To this letter I received no answer; but in a conversation with Mr. Knight at the Medical Board Office, he acknowledged the receipt of it, alledging that, as it was directed to the *Board at large*, he did not think it necessary for *him* to return any answer. This is the way they uniformly shuffle. They are either a board, or not a board, precisely as suits their convenience. I address them officially as a Board; Mr. Knight replies as an individual: Dr. Gordon addresses Sir Lucas Pepys as an individual; they reply as a board. (See their Letter in page 114 of this work). This farce of "Duke and no Duke," which the soi-disant Members of the Medical Board have so long delighted in acting, has in many instances been attended with the most tragical consequences to the State.

At this period (April, 1805) the expedition under Sir James Craig, being about to sail for the Mediterranean, I thought proper still to temporise with the Medical Board, in the hope of getting, by that means, the opportunity I had so long sought for of giving a practical illustration of my theories respecting epidemic diseases. Accordingly I applied to them, both personally, and by

private friends, (not however it would seem *those private friends whom they most value,*) to obtain, *even without any increase of rank,* that destination. This favour was, it appears, inattainable. Still hoping, however, that some of the other corps under orders at Portsmouth, might be destined to reinforce Sir James Craig, I was willing to avail myself even of this chance of obtaining my object, and with that view, consented to proceed to Gosport, according to Mr. Knight's directions.

Finding, on my arrival there, that boys from school were daily promoted over my head, and that I had no chance of going to the Mediterranean, and reflecting that it was not uncommon for officers to be appointed in one service with the rank they had held in another, I, on that principle, addressed a memorial to the Commander in Chief as follows :

*To his Royal Highness Field Marshal the Duke of York,
Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Forces, &c. &c. &c.*

“ May it please your Royal Highness,

“ I beg leave most humbly to submit the peculiar circumstances of my case to your Royal Highness's consideration.

1. “ On my arrival in this country, above twelve months ago, from imprisonment in France, wishing to render myself useful in a Medical capacity during the crisis then impending, I did not hesitate to enter the army, although nearly forty years of age, and possessing the degrees of Physician and Surgeon, together with almost twenty years experience of the diseases of hot and unwholesome climates, even in the inferior situation of Hospital-Mate;—*in which I still remain.*

2. “ Persuaded that your Royal Highness can have no other wish than to see every man attached to the Army

employed in the manner in which he can be most generally useful, I feel that I should not be discharging my duty to the service at large, or to myself, were I not to avail myself of this opportunity of stating to your Royal Highness my claims, founded upon public utility, to the rank which I am going to solicit. No one can be more sensible than your Royal Highness that, in the Medical Department, the efforts of a man of experience are as useless in a situation where his duty consists only in applying the prescriptions of others, as those of a man without experience amidst desolating disease. It is like the general discharging the functions of the private soldier, or the private soldier those of the general. Neither can it have escaped the notice of your Royal Highness of what very great consequence the application of this principle must be to the Medical Department of an Army proceeding on an expedition, in which there may eventually be much sickness*. Your Royal Highness will, therefore, I trust, think that the occasion will justify any appearance of ostentation, which the following statement of services may bear. In 1788, I was Surgeon of the William Pitt, and afterwards of the Northumberland, and Houghton, East Indiamen. At various periods, I had the care of an Hospital at Bengal, and of troops in Batavia, Bencoolen, and other unwholesome climates, during which periods my experience of fevers, dysenteries, and other acute diseases, was very considerable, or rather such as seldom falls to the lot of one man. I had also repeated opportunities of treating the yellow fever in the West Indies and elsewhere. In 1789 I practised, and in 1796 published in India a mode of treatment for epidemic and pestilential diseases, (including plague), which I find is the only one that has since, although but partially and in-

* At this period it was not generally known for what service the troops that were afterwards sent to the Cape of Good Hope, were destined.

completely applied, been found successful in Egypt. And finally, I have, for several years past, travelled for Medical improvement in different parts of the continent of Europe.

3. “ Considering, then, that in the situation of an Hospital-Mate, acting under the immediate directions of a superior officer, who may never perhaps have seen the diseases of any climate but his own, the benefits of my experience would be almost wholly thrown away; and that it is no uncommon occurrence to transfer an officer from one service to another, retaining his rank; I trust that, although I have not long had the honor of serving in his Majesty’s Army, the circumstances which have just been mentioned, (and which I am ready to verify in any manner your Royal Highness may desire), will be deemed sufficient to entitle me to a rank in the Army equal to that which I formerly held in the East India Company’s service.”

This memorial, dated Gosport, 17th May, 1805, concludes in the usual manner of such documents; and here follows the answer.

Horse Guards, May 23, 1805.

“ SIR,

“ Having laid before the Commander in
“ Chief your letter and memorial of the 7th instant, I
“ am commanded to acquaint you that you should ad-
“ dress yourself to the Medical Board on the subject of
“ promotion.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your most obedient humble Servant,

“ J. W. GORDON.”

*Dr. Charles Maclean,
Hospital Mate.*

From this and other answers, it is impossible not to conclude that it has been the invariable custom at the Horse Guards to be guided by the advice of the Medical Board, or one of its Members, on the correspondence respecting all the affairs of their department, even in cases of complaint against themselves. Such an answer to a memorial, virtually complaining of the conduct of the Medical Board, and appealing from their decision, can not be otherwise interpreted. But the delusion was natural.

How, indeed, could the Horse Guards be expected to act otherwise? The most enlightened part of the community are not always judges of medical merit. It cannot, therefore, be very surprising if the Members of the Medical Board should have passed for conjurors at the Horse Guards and the War Office, seeing that the diseases most incidental to these latitudes might readily yield *even to their skill*. But as it requires no great stretch of sagacity to understand the rules of common justice between man and man, that these should have been so frequently suffered to be violated, can only be accounted for by the excessive confidence reposed in the Medical Board, by the Commander in Chief, and their almost constant abuse of it.

Soon after the receipt of this note, I accompanied an embarkation of troops which took place from Portsmouth to Cork, in May or June, 1805. During our stay there, various changes of destination took place, according to the caprice of the Medical Board, or their representatives. In the short interval of *three months, upwards of thirty persons were promoted over my head!*

Of most of these gentlemen, I could, were it necessary, mention the names, ages, and regiments. But this might appear invidious, as no blame whatever is attached to them. I shall therefore merely state, that they were all of junior standing in the Army by a twelvemonth, and in age and experience in a still greater degree. Some of them were even appointed Assistant-Surgeons without

having been previously in the Army. Now, it can be no disparagement to these young Gentlemen to say, that they cannot be supposed, unless I had made a very bad use of my time, to be so fit as myself for undertaking the treatment of any portion of his Majesty's Armies. What then could have induced the Medical Board to act in a manner so disgracefully unjust? Had they any proof that I was unqualified? If so, they ought, from regard to the lives of his Majesty's subjects, to have at least allowed me to resign. Nay, they ought to have forced me to retire. It remains demonstrated then, that their motives could not but have been of the most disgraceful kind.

While in Ireland, I wrote several remonstrances, and repeatedly tendered my resignation. But my applications were all either intercepted, or evaded, by the Agents of the Medical Board, faithful tools of those upon whom they depended for promotion.

By this time, I was not ignorant that there were infallible modes, very different from writing memorials, or stating claims, of securing Medical promotion. A few pipes of wine, and a few turtle, presented in season, to the Members of the Medical Board, or any other offering of esteemed value, were generally understood to enhance the merits of all candidates for promotion*. They have even been known to act with such magic influence, as to keep criminals in the service, while honest men have been superceded or dismissed, some for having brought and substantiated charges of peculation, and others for having conscientiously resisted the exercise of unlawful authority†.

These are such abominable and disgraceful means of

* Mr. Mealing, formerly an Hospital Mate, I am informed, has given a good account of some Madiera and Turtle sent by Inspector Strahan, of Barbadoes, to Mr. Keate.

† See the cases of Dr. Robert Gordon, Dr. Buffa, and Mr. Dunne.

promotion in the Medical profession, above all others; that a man of honor will rather continue to suffer injustice than have recourse to them; and hence, in a service so constituted, the least scrupulous will have the best chance of success.

At length, convinced that it was determined I was neither to be promoted, nor suffered to resign, I felt that I had only the alternative of remaining in the hopeful situation of Hospital Mate (*Medical recruit*, according to Mr. Knight), during the rest of my life, or abandoning, at all events, a service in which the grossest acts of despotism could thus daily be committed with impunity. Events foreign to this enquiry had also concurred to render my adoption of this latter alternative indispensable; and I embraced it, after first giving regular notice to the Principal Medical Officer on the spot, of the necessity under which I was placed.

Not aware of any law or principle in the British Constitution, by which Gentlemen and Officers can be detained in the service, like enlisted soldiers, contrary to their inclination, it was impossible for me to have imagined that the Medical Board would have acted on this occasion, with an audacity at which even less contemptible tyrants would have hesitated. I thought it not improbable that, in pursuance of the routine practice in such cases, I should see myself in the *Gazette* as “*superceded for being absent without leave;*” and this was all that I expected ever to hear of them.

But notwithstanding my experience of the temper and character of the Medical Board, I found that I had formed but an inadequate estimate of their mental qualifications. It was not alone that they could not forgive whom they had injured. In justification of accumulated injuries they thought it necessary to persecute; and their mode of persecution was as singular as the personages themselves. Some considerable time after my arrival in England, the

following curious specimen of their prowess, which I should not otherwise have known, was sent to me by a military relation from the country, cut out from the Police paper, called the Hue and Cry:—"Deserter, Charles Maclean, Hospital Mate," followed by a description of my person.

The first thing that will naturally strike the reader in this extraordinary proceeding, is the circumstances of *three such personages* as I have shewn the Medical Board to consist of, presuming to advertise a gentleman as a deserter; the next that it is undoubtedly the only instance of the kind within his recollection, in the case of a Commissioned Officer, in the Medical Department* It will also occur to men of honor that there is only one species of satisfaction, and that an obvious one, which could have atoned for such an insult, taking it in a Military point of view. But well knowing my men; knowing that the Members of the Medical Board had, in consequence of their misdeeds, already repeatedly suffered that species of chastisement, which, unresented, is supposed to forfeit the character of the Gentleman; knowing of course that no sentiment of honor would operate as a restraint, I felt that the only consequence of a demand of appropriate satisfaction, would be a legal interference likely to plunge me deeper into difficulties, or at least that, with the spirit which characterises them, they would take shelter from the punishment due to their iniquities under the convenient mantle of office. On this, I think, well grounded presumption, I abstained from making the demand. But if I have been mistaken, I shall be very happy, with respect to the two junior Members of the Board (the Senior even in respect to his official duties, having himself pleaded age) to be undeceived.

* By his Majesty's regulations of 1804, Hospital Mates are Commissioned Officers. (Vide Medical Observer, vol. 3, p. 353). The adjutant General wrote Mr Keate to furnish a description of the person of Hospital Mate Maclean who had deserted him from his duty at Cork on the embarkation of the

Although, as it concerns myself personally, considering the well known characters of the persons concerned, I should rather have been disposed to treat the matter entirely in a ludicrous way, no man's good opinion who could attach the smallest consequence to it in a moral point of view being worth the obtaining, yet, as it affects the Medical Department at large, and even the public, this absurd attempt of the Medical Board at moral assassination, is perhaps worthy of being considered with some degree of seriousness.

I own I should have been desirous, in order, by a regular proceeding, to have *set at rest* the question; whether Medical Gentlemen entering the Army, are to be considered (in the polite language of Mr. Knight) as *recruits enlisted for life*, or as Commissioned Officers, entitled to the rights, and privileges, and treatment of Gentlemen, to have brought an action at law against the publisher. The expence of the prosecution, however, considering that the defendant would be supported by the money of the public, was more than I could venture upon.—But why did not the Medical Board act upon their advertisement? They were either guilty of individual injustice in procuring its insertion, or, if right in that, they were guilty of dereliction of public duty in not following it up. They knew they could not; and this knowledge served but to aggravate the infamy of the measure. What did they mean? Was it to give others a relish for entering the service? Or did the worthy Members of the Board think it was in *them*, by any contrivance at the Horse Guards, to fix a stigma on my character? Did they imagine that their rank, as heads of the department, could sanctify oppression, cloak imposture, or conceal the want of knowledge, integrity, and understanding?

How, I repeat, can the Medical Board account for the absurdity of inserting an advertisement, (for no one can doubt the measure sprung from them), upon which they

knew they could not act? Did they not know where to find me? Did I ever conceal myself? I went in person to the Horse Guards, and afterwards had a correspondence with the Commander in Chief on the subject. Did I ever in any shape deprecate the vengeance of the Medical Board? Have I on any occasion spared their delinquencies? Was it then in dread of exposure that they adopted, in anticipation, this *magnanimous* measure of self-defence? It is that Board alone I blame for this piece of egregious foolery; but especially Mr. Knight, to whom I aver that we are principally indebted for the disgraceful disorganization of the Medical Department of the Army!

To shew how well they knew that they had no such power as they have assumed in my case, their own authority may be allowed, on such an occasion, to be valid. In an official note from the Army Medical Board to Lord Amherst, Commander in Chief, in May, 1794, they say—
 “ However unpleasant it must be for the Army Medical
 “ Board to give any opinion on such a subject, yet as it
 “ is brought before them, their duty requires them to
 “ declare, that as Dr. Hunter refuses to acknowledge
 “ himself bound to pay any attention to the Office of
 “ Inspector, an office appointed by his Majesty for the
 “ express purpose of regulating the conduct of the Hos-
 “ pitals and Regimental Infirmaries, there seems now to
 “ be *no alternative* but for the *proposed resignation to be*
 “ *accepted**.” There was no alternative! In my case, was not the principle precisely the same, although the ranks were different? The attempt, therefore, to enforce an undue authority, where there was supposed to be less power of resistance, while it was relinquished where that power was supposed adequate, evinces a meanness which

* See Keate's Observations on the Proceedings and Report of the Special Medical Board, &c. &c. p. 155.

is the natural concomitant of petty despotism, and can only inhabit the lowest and the most profligate minds.

Did not Mr. Buchannan, a young gentleman from Edinburgh, quit the service last year, in open contempt and defiance of the Medical Board, because they had grossly and impudently deceived him? But they did not on that account think fit to advertise him. Perhaps they had begun to apprehend they had already enough of those crimes to answer for—those base and dastardly attempts at moral assassination!

Besides the cases which have happened to come to my knowledge, it is fair to conclude, that many of a similar description have occurred, with which I remain unacquainted. But I do not think many instances even of their conduct can be found more unjustifiable than that which has been just stated; and, if so, have I not a right to conclude that the attempt at moral assassination, contained in the Hue and Cry advertisement, was founded either on personal hostility of the most malignant and rancorous kind, or on a plan of policy the most diabolical?

From what I am going to state, it will indeed appear that both motives had their influence, although personal enmity was probably rendered subservient to policy of a deeper kind. The reader will perceive, from the case of Dr. Buffa, that it has been part of the regular tactics of the Medical Board to employ every means, lawful and unlawful, to discredit, with the different departments of government, the individuals, whom they had injured beyond forgiveness, or whom they justly dreaded. By these artifices they hoped to render the representations of their opponents fruitless, and to cover their own turpitude; views in which, from the clandestine mode of their proceeding, with almost absolute power in their hands, they were but too frequently successful. That, in a civilized and free nation, such criminal and disgraceful acts should, by any combination of circumstances, have been

suffered so long to prosper, or that they should even have entered into the contemplation of men presiding over so important a department in the state, is astonishing, and almost incredible. They would be viewed with horror in the most corrupt days of falling Rome, or the most ferocious periods of modern anarchy. But the days of retribution are come; and the triumvirate, calling themselves the Army Medical Board, will, contrary, perhaps, to what they ever contemplated, be shortly summoned before the legislature of the country, to answer for their numerous crimes and misdemeanors.

I am not ignorant that, in addition to the accumulated injuries which I have already stated, considerable pains have been taken by the Medical Board to represent me to the departments of Government as a disaffected person, for which I could punish them in a most exemplary manner before a jury of my country. But standing upon public grounds, I prefer this mode of proceeding. And I here openly call upon the Medical Board, and defy them to prove any single instance of disaffection to the constitution of my country, or any of its branches, unless indeed they should have recourse to the evidence of affidavit-men, who have never seen my face. Nay, I will say farther, since the occasion calls for it—That I have, without fee or reward, made sacrifices, and run risks, for my country and profession, which no Member of the Medical Board ever has made, or ever will make, although most liberally paid by the public. The cry of disaffection has been the common cant of the College of Physicians, of whom Sir Lucas Pepys is President, as well as of the Medical Board, against their opponents, whose arguments they have been unable to refute. It is part of the tactics of such bodies wilfully to confound opposition to themselves and their abuses, with disaffection to the constitution of the country. Let it be remembered, as a case in point, that this very clamour was set

up by the College in 1794, against the very respectable body of men, who united, under the appellation of Associated Licentiates, for the purpose of procuring a reform in the College laws. "The accusation," says Dr. Wells, "was publicly brought against them by Dr. John Latham, one of the Fellows of the College." "We are attacked*," says Dr. Latham, in his Harveian oration, "by ferocious, daring, and obstinate enemies, regardless of the faith, which they have pledged for the observance of our statutes. I might complain at greater length of the injury which they have rashly done us, but *liberality* forbids me to say more."

I will just add, in corroboration, that the Medical Board, of whom the President of the College is also President, did enter into a conspiracy in order to combine their Hue and Cry advertisement with a personal quarrel, which I had last year with the Penitentiary Surgeon of Bloomsbury †, and were only prevented from carrying their project, so far as depended upon them, into effect, by the manly conduct of Mr. Reed, their Secretary, who absolutely refused to do their dirty work.

* Hostis-aggreditur, ferox, audax, pertinax, posthabita fide de observandis, (Collegii) statutis. Verum eiamvero tametsi mihi esset occasio querendi prolixius de facta nobis temere injuria, vetat amplius disserere liberalitas. "These quotations are from the printed copy. The author of this letter did not hear Dr. Latham deliver his oration, but from the reports of others, he has reason to believe, that the whole of the abuse, which was then thrown upon the associated licentiates, has not been printed." (See Dr. Wells's Letter to Lord Kenyon, Medical Observer, No. xxvi). The Harveian orators of the College have since improved considerably in the abuse of their opponents. (Vide Dr. Powell's Harveian Oration, Medical Observer, vol. vi. p. 84).

† Mr. W. Blair, Surgeon of the Leek Hospital, Ruptured Poor Society, Female Penitentiary, &c &c. This curious compound of hypocrisy and blockheadism may be said literally to live by the sin and misery of mankind. For the particulars of his conduct, on the occasion alluded to, see the Medical Observer, vol. v. p. 46.

In concluding these cases, I think it proper to declare, that I have within my reach proofs to substantiate every thing which I have asserted of this Board—not the evidence of suborned affidavit-men, but of respectable gentlemen.—*And that I am ready to meet them in any shape,*

HOSPITAL STOPPAGES.

The system of Hospital Stoppages, which consists in levying a fine on sickness, and for which the present Inspector-General claims so much merit as an economist, is, of all absurd pieces of Charlatenery, the most absurd. This piece of quackery, almost as old as the army, Mr. Knight and his partisans dignify with the pompous name of *a New System*. “The New System,” says Dr. Borland, (Vide Fifth Rep. App. No. 23, A. p. 162), “has been introduced in the West Indies by Inspector Ker; at Sicily, by Deputy-Inspector Somerville; at the Cape of Good Hope, by Deputy-Inspector Baillie, &c. where the savings have been even greater than at home, &c.” What savings? Has a farthing less been expended on the Hospitals? No. The great merit of this economising system consists in deducting ten pence a day from the soldiers pay, as a punishment for being sick, and defraying the Hospital expences out of these stoppages, instead of taking them in a more direct way from the public. I say in a more direct way, because such absurd, cruel, and delusive savings will ultimately prove more costly to the state, than a straight forward, open, just, and liberal expenditure. Besides the absolute barbarity of the measure, to call that a saving, which takes ten pence a day from the pay of the poor soldier, instead

of taking it from the public purse, while no diminution has been effected in the actual expenditure, however consonant to the ideas of the Medical Board, will appear to others a gross perversion of language. By a short review of this system, we shall perceive the miracles wrought by the great economist of the Medical Board; and first, as to its novelty, previous to 1798, “the sick of regiments” were maintained by stoppages, *the rate of which was regulated by the Commanding Officer*: these were usually paid to *the Hospital Serjeant*, and the expenditure was accounted for to *the Commanding Officer*.” By a regulation of September, 1799, the stoppage was reduced to four shillings per week for each man; and now for the first time, (observe the gradations by which the Medical Board have extended their patronage), the Surgeon was required to transmit half-yearly to the Inspector of *Regimental Hospitals*, (we had not yet an Inspector-General of *Army Hospitals*), an account (approved by the Commanding Officer) of the Regimental contingent expences, together with the vouchers for the same, signed and certified by the Paymaster. The next regulation is dated the 31st August, 1802, (which seems to have been the first grand achievement of Mr. Knight in the line of *economy*, he having been appointed Inspector-General about nine months before), when the stoppage was directed to be *raised* to ten pence per diem for each man, which was to be paid over to *the Regimental Surgeon*, to be applied by him, under the superintendence of the Commanding Officer, to the maintenance of the sick, and the general superintendence of the Hospital; and accounts of the expenditure for both services, (being previously certified by the Commanding Officer), were to be furnished to the Inspector-General of *Army Hospitals* *in such forms, and at such times as he should prescribe*, (Mr. Knight began already to feel himself strong, and to make rapid strides towards an accumulation of patron-

age), in order that, if there was a deficiency, it might be made good; and if a surplus, that the same might be applied to the general Medical expences of the corps. In September, 1803, an additional Assistant-Surgeon was appointed to regiments consisting of 500 men and upwards; and other regulations were at the same time issued, *bringing the Regimental Hospital expenditure more directly under the controul of the Inspector-General.* (Vide Fifth Report, p. 29). Well done, Mr. Knight! This was a promising prelude to the grand inspectorial drama, which succeeded. The last regulation for the arrangement of Regimental Hospitals, was on the 1st of January, 1806, in which little alteration was made material to be noticed in this place*. On this strange system, the Commissioners very justly remark, that the Regimental-Surgeons are converted into a kind of *Purveyors* of the Hospitals under their care, and *Accountants* of the Stoppages issued to them by the Paymasters of Regiments, duties “*very distinct from those which are professionally required of*” them, and “*of a nature which may seem to interfere with the last.*” (See Fifth Report, p. 53). It was however useful to Mr. Knight, as bringing the Regimental-Surgeons more completely under his controul, and increasing the “business and patronage” of his department.

Let us consider, what must be the effect of this cunning plan, according to the real nature of things. I do not accuse Mr. Knight of ever having reasoned upon the subject farther than to lead him to the conclusion, that if he could, by delusive appearances, obtain a character for economy, he could preserve and extend his superiority of patronage over the other Members of the soi-disant

* Vide Medical Observer, vol. iii. p. 353, and vol. iv. p. 81, and 177.

medical Board, who were not quite knaves enough to make such unblushing pretensions to economy. The immediate consequences of this system are, and must be, that soldiers, especially those who have families to support out of their pay, will not, until absolute necessity compels them, go into an Hospital, when perhaps it is too late to receive any benefit. Again, let us consider the state of the soldier, under this system, on leaving the Hospital in a state of convalescence. His pay being almost wholly exhausted by the Hospital stoppages, he returns in a convalescent state to his mess, without money to buy the comforts necessary to his situation. The utmost extent of Hospital stoppages then, (if indeed there should be any), ought not to exceed what his subsistence costs the soldier at his mess. All beyond this is a cruel and mischievous abuse, and, however it may obtain the reputation of an economist to the Inspector-General, is injurious and disgraceful to the service. In as far as the system is at all tolerable, it was much better conducted as before, than under the new-fangled pedantic plan of Mr. Knight. It may be equally applied to General as to Regimental Hospitals; and certainly quite as well regulated without, as with Inspectors.

GENERAL AND REGIMENTAL HOSPITAL SYSTEMS.

The mighty dispute respecting the two systems is, as formerly stated, nothing more than a contest for patronage between Sir Lucas Pepys and Mr. Keate, on the one side, and Mr. Knight on the other. The excess to which Mr. Keate, when his influence was preponderant, had pushed jobbing in the unnecessary establishment of General Hospitals and Depots, had disgusted every one; and Mr.

Knight, when he acquired the ascendancy, was enabled, in his turn, almost to abolish the General Hospital system, and to push the Regimental Hospital system to the same preposterous extreme. For my own part, I cannot see any real difference between them, but in respect to the number of attendants, and the description of patients they receive. The one kind is as necessary, in their due proportion, as the other: and if Mr. Keate, for the sake of a job, pushed the General Hospitals to an extravagant length, it was no reason why they should have been entirely abolished in favour of the equally extravagant plan of Mr. Knight. The proportion of General and Regimental Hospitals then ought to be established on some rational principle, totally independent of the unseemly struggles of the Surgeon and Inspector-General for patronage.

Their disputes respecting the superiority of the practice have been both trifling and impertinent. The *words* General and Regimental could not alter the nature of the practice. That must have depended on the Medical Officers presiding: and, when young College Physicians, or boy Inspectors, without any previous experience of army diseases, presided at General Hospitals, it might reasonably be expected that the practice would not be so good as in Regimental Hospitals, when these were under the care of experienced Regimental Surgeons. But the comparisons which have been made by several of the persons, who have given their evidence to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, on this subject, are for the most part idle and inconclusive, and in many respects evidently biased by an *esprit du Corps*. If the General Hospitals were under the care of the oldest Medical Officers, as in India, there is no doubt that the practice would be for the most part good, and the General Hospitals, in their proper proportions, useful and efficient establishments. As they have been managed by our Medical Board here,

however, it is not surprising that the practice should be considered inferior to that of Regimental Hospitals, even without thinking very highly of the latter; and if Mr. Keate, without any views of patronage, had introduced that droll fellow, called a Principal Medical Officer, into the service, in order to enable him occasionally to supercede, by men of real experience, some of Sir Lucas Pepys's young College Physicians, and Mr. Knight's boy Inspectors, in the charge of General Hospitals, I should have considered it an ingenious manœuvre, for which the Surgeon-General was deserving of much credit. Unhappily, however, for this speculation in his favour, Mr. Keate has more frequently superceded senior Officers by junior ones, than the reverse.

On expeditions, and in the field, the General Hospital establishment may be considered as altogether an useless incumbrance. “ The Army which was sent from Bombay to Egypt, in 1801, under the command of Lieut.-General Sir David Baird, although consisting, with followers, of eight thousand men, had, with the exception of Dr. McGrigor, who acted as the head of the Medical Staff, and of a Storekeeper who was appointed after the landing in Egypt, only the usual Regimental Medical Officers, and these carried their medicines with them.” (Vide Fifth Report, p. 23, 24). The General Hospital establishments at home have been almost incredible. There have been *fourteen* General Hospitals established at different times in various parts of the country, (see Fifth Report, p. 192); most of them dismantled subsequently to 1800. The expences of the ground and buildings of those establishments must have been enormous, independently of the pay of Officers and servants. These, particularly the job of that scandalous wooden building, the York Hospital at Chelsea, are worthy of further investigation. On this subject, the

Commissioners, it would appear, were able to get no satisfactory information from the Army Medical Board Office, as we learn from the following letter of their Secretary :—(See Fifth Report, p. 274).

Army Medical Office, July 1, 1807.

“ SIR,

“ I request you will inform the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, that no books in this Office can give the total expence of the York Hospital, or of the Depot Hospital, for any one year, our accounts comprising nothing more than is found to be charged against the public in the abstracts of the Agent for Army Hospitals. It appears that the buildings, with certain articles of furniture, according to the Barrack regulations, are supplied by the Barrack Department, that the Purveyor's stores have been supplied by Messrs. Trotters, and the Medicines by the Apothecary-General; that among the stores furnished by these last two houses are found various articles of consumption, such as rice, sugar, tea, &c. and that the stores deposited in the General Hospitals are intended to furnish issues to other services, as well as for the use of the particular establishments. It is possible that by computations founded upon the returns of sick, and tables of diets, compared with the Purveyor's accounts, something of an aggregate may be formed; but it will be difficult to give any thing like the precise expenditure.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your most obedient humble Servant,

“ S. REED.”

To Peter Grant, Esq. &c. &c.

ECONOMY OF THE MEDICAL BOARD.

The Medical Board have been principally occupied with regulating diet tables, and other trifling matters of economy, instead of attending to circumstances more essential to the lives of the soldiers. Under the influence of this direful system of economy, they sent only a thousand paillasses for the use of the army at Walcheren, where there were from seven to nine thousand sick, (seven sick to one paillasse) and the Army were for several days without medicines *. Neither upon the return of the troops, was there any adequate preparation, in respect to Hospitals, for the survivors. From what I have already stated of the ignorance of the Medical Board respecting the necessities of Armies on active service, it does not surprise me in the least that they should not have made any adequate provision for their wants on this occasion. But when we consider that every school-boy, from perusing his books of geography, must know the state of Holland, and that, at certain seasons of the year it is very unhealthy, it is somewhat extraordinary that, without any reference to Medical knowledge, or abstract calculation, they should not have made more than usual preparation for an Army so destined. Might not the Medical knowledge they possess, with the help of a little common reasoning, have enabled them to foresee the occurrence of much disease, at this^d season of the year at Walcheren?—But let me ask the Medical Board what preparations they made to meet those exigencies; what is

* It is said they were even obliged to apply to the enemy for Peruvian bark—an article in which they have unhappily great confidence for the cure of fevers.

The Dutch, alluding to our law prohibiting the exportation of Peruvian bark to France and Holland, answered the application in the words of the Latin poet:

————— Neque enim lex æquior ulla,
Quam récis artifices arte perire sua.

OVID, *de Arte Amandi*, Lib. i. 635, 636.

the age, and standing in the service, of the Principal Medical Officer employed on this expedition? And whether all the Physicians were not young men without any previous experience of Army Diseases?

On the return of our troops in a most dreadful state of disease, dying maniacal, as described in Pringle's diseases of the low countries, Sir Lucas Pepys, accompanied by Dr. Morris, to evince their zeal, went to the coast; but they soon returned, and Dr. Morris resigned. Mr. Keate, to make a display of *his* diligence, wrote to different Hospital Physicians, offering them 2*l.* a day and their expences, if they would go and attend the troops. But no attention was paid to his requisition. Are there not plenty of experienced Medical Officers upon half-pay, to whom the Medical Board might offer the same inducements as they have offered to the Hospital Physicians? Why did they not offer these inducements to those on the spot? These Gentlemen, they perhaps thought, would not probably accept of any situation under them. But as they are more accustomed to the treatment of dysentery, and fevers, than the London Hospital Physicians, they ought, if they seriously meant any benefit to the troops, to have at least made them the offer. On such an emergency, surely they might find plenty of assistance, if they applied in proper quarters, *and like Gentlemen.*

But, if it were not expected of the Medical Board that they should reason so deeply as, from general principles, to draw particular conclusions, it is, however, extremely difficult to conceive, unless we could suppose them incapable of reading their mother tongue, how they could have escaped observing the beacon set up, as if it were for this particular occasion, by one of their predecessors. Sir John Pringle, in his account of the Campaigns of Dutch Brabant*, in the year 1747, says:—

* Vide Observations on the Diseases of the Army in Camp and Garrison, &c. by Sir John Pringle, edition of 1752, p. 70.

“ But in Zealand the sickness was excessive among the
 “ battalions that had been there since the beginning of
 “ the campaign. These, partly in camp and cantonments;
 “ lay in South Beveland and in the Island of Walcheren,
 “ two districts of the province; and both in field and
 “ quarters were so very sickly, that at the height of the
 “ epidemic, some of these corps had but 100 men only
 “ fit for duty, which was less than a seventh part of the
 “ battalion. That of the *Royal*, in particular, at the
 “ end of the campaign, had but four men that never had
 “ been ill.”

He afterwards observes (p. 73), that the number sick at the end of the campaign, amounted to a fifth part of the whole army, and that of the four Zealand battalions, when they went into Winter quarters, the “ sick were in
 “ proportion to their men in health, *nearly as four to*
 “ *one.*”

The time of the year chosen for the expedition was also precisely the most sickly period, as clearly pointed out by Sir John Pringle. “ The commencement of the
 “ epidemics (in Zealand)” says he, (chap. i.) “ may be
 “ dated from some time in July, or the beginning of
 “ August, under the Canicular heats; their sensible de-
 “ cline about the first falling of the leaf; and end when
 “ the frosts begin.”

Now it was not to have been expected that his Majesty's Ministers should have been acquainted with Sir John Pringle's works. But certainly no one could imagine that the Medical Board, however meanly he might have thought of their intellects otherwise, could have been ignorant of such notorious facts in Medical history, and their own particular department. But this we are now obliged to conclude, from their notorious want of Medical preparation to meet the exigencies of the campaign. In the situation of chiefs of the department, men of in-

tegrity and common sense, would have thought it their duty to make representations to the government, respecting the period of sending forth, and destination of this expedition. If even the few sentences I have quoted from Sir John Pringle had been shewn to his Majesty's Ministers, I do not suppose that any one of them would have been so fool-hardy as to have persisted in the design, unless the object in view were of certain attainment, and more than adequate in value to the lives that must be sacrificed in its accomplishment. And, in that case, a conscientious Medical Board, knowing that great and uncommon sickness must arise, *would have thought it their duty to accompany the Army, or to join it.* Instead of this, what did these persons do?—When they received at length the orders of their superiors to join the Army, they most shamefully evaded compliance. These are charges, which it is not in the power of the Medical Board to refute.

The fate of this excellent Army, both during the expedition, and since its return, calls strongly to the recollection that of the unfortunate sufferers on the expedition sent from Jamaica, in 1780, to *San Juan*, on the Spanish Main, which is thus described by Dr. Moseley*, at that time Surgeon-General of Jamaica;—

“ Great as our inconveniences were who remained in
 “ Jamaica, they who encountered the *San Juan* expedi-
 “ tion suffered much more; and it was long doubtful
 “ whether such of them as experienced every hardship
 “ in life, and were thrown into the river, or lay unburied
 “ on its banks, a prey to wild beasts, in sight of their

* Vide Treatise on Tropical Diseases, on Military Operations, and on the Climate of the West Indies, by B. Moseley, M. D. 4th edition, p. 138.

“ helpless companions, were not in a more envious state
 “ than the survivors.

“ Those who returned to Jamaica were harassed with
 “ obstinate intermittents, or diarrhæal, or dysenterical
 “ complaints; or with painful enlargements of the liver,
 “ or spleen. Their complexions were yellow and their
 “ bodies emaciated. Some whom I attended, after their
 “ return, that had been long ill on the Spanish Main,
 “ had their intellects impaired, and their senses at times
 “ disordered, during their weak and convalescent state.

“ The late Dr. Charles Irving* who was on the Spanish
 “ Main, to command a corps of Indians, which he was rais-
 “ ing for that service, was a skilful Physician.—He in-
 “ formed me, that in the intermittents there, the *delirium*,
 “ which commonly came on in the paroxysm of the fever,
 “ after a few returns of it, sometimes remained during
 “ the intermissions, which soon became irregular, from
 “ reduplications of the accessions; and that several men
 “ wandered about in a phrenzy, and died raving mad.”

After this experience before their eyes, I believe no
 set of men would think of proposing to send an expedi-
 tion a second time to *San Juan*, at the same season of the
 year. But the expedition to Walcheren may, in almost
 every respect, be called another *San Juan* expedition,
 with precisely the same experience, the same warning
 before our eyes. Sir John Pringle has recorded the one,
 Dr. Moseley the other. But all their instruction appears to
 have been thrown away upon the Medical Board, to
 whom, if they have not made representations on the
 subject to his Majesty's government, I am clearly of

* This Gentleman invented an improved method of obtaining fresh water
 from sea-water, by distillation, for which he obtained a reward of 5000*l*.
 from Parliament.

opinion ought to be imputed the principal calamities of the Walcheren expedition.

I trust it will be thought necessary, in the investigation which *must* take place on the whole of this melancholy subject, to comprehend the Medical treatment of the sick.*

COMPARATIVE VIEW OF THE MEDICAL ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE ORDNANCE, NAVY, AND EAST INDIA COMPANY, WITH THAT OF HIS MAJESTY'S ARMY.

I cannot do better than to adopt, as preliminary to the observations which I have got to make on this subject, the following judicious remarks of the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, in pages 35 to 38 of their very able report.

“ *The Medical Establishment of the Ordnance* consists of an Inspector-General, appointed in May, 1806; a Surgeon-General; an Assistant Surgeon-General; thirteen Surgeons; one Apothecary, appointed in October, 1806; twenty-four Assistant-Surgeons; many Supernumerary Assistant-Surgeons; and six or seven Civil Surgeons; resident at certain stations, whose pay is only 3s. 6d. per diem.

“ It seems that there are no persons under the title of Physicians, now belonging to this Department; and all those who are at the head of it, except the Inspector-General, have gone through all the gradations of the Medical service of the Ordnance. The Inspector-General has risen however from the rank of Surgeon to the Forces in

* This must of course be referred to Medical Commissioners. If it be true that Phlebotomy, or the other parts of the Cob-web practice of Mr. Knight and Dr. Borland, as described in the preceding pages, have been employed in the Fever of Walcheren, which was discovered (Oh! wonderful!) by Dr. Blane to be an Endemic of the Island, the great fatality which has ensued cannot be very surprising to the skilfull and experienced Physician. To trust to the Peruvian Bark in such fevers, as it is manufactured and sold in Europe, whatever may be its virtues in its genuine state, is death.

America, under Major-General Burgoyne, in 1776, to that of Inspector in the Army, before his appointment to his present situation.

“ Previous to the appointment of the present Inspector-General, the superintendence of the Ordnance Medical service had been conducted by Dr. Brocklesby, under the title of Physician-General to the Ordnance, and on his death, by the Surgeon-General and Assistant Surgeon-General of this Department. These Officers are *solely* occupied in the business of their Ordnance employments, and are resident at Woolwich, which is considered as the head-quarters of the Department.

“ The present Inspector-General, who is generally resident in London, and is not restrained from following private practice, has no general instructions for his duty; but “ he goes to Woolwich constantly once a week,”— “ he inspects all Ordnance Hospitals throughout the “ United Kingdom,” and “ the returns of Woolwich Hos-
“ pital, and of all other Hospitals, are made to him weekly.”

“ No person from the Ordnance Department attends at the Surgeons College at the examination of candidates for employment in this service: but few, if any, are employed who have not diplomas from the College of Surgeons in London, Dublin, or Edinburgh. No difficulty is found in procuring gentlemen so qualified, to fill vacancies when any occur; and there are generally candidates on the list waiting for vacancies. No Medical persons are employed on the Foreign Service of the Ordnance who have not been previously acquainted with the practice of the Hospital at Woolwich. The Master General appoints the Medical Officers originally, on the recommendation of the Inspector-General, and promotion, if there be no objection, always goes according to seniority. The monthly, fortnight, and weekly returns, which are made to the Ordnance Board, are the means by which the conduct of the persons employed in their

Medical service is judged of; and it is observed “with satisfaction,” that it seldom or ever happens any report of the improper conduct of these gentlemen is made.

“The great distinction, therefore, which appears in the view of the constitution of the Medical Establishment of the Ordnance, and in that which we have given of the Army Medical Establishment, is, that in the first, the persons at the head of the Department have a general experience in Military Medical Practice—that, with the exception of the Inspector-General, they are solely occupied in their Ordnance employment at the head-quarters of the Ordnance—that, although on the first appointment of Medical Officers, the diplomas alluded to are thought sufficient testimonials of their ability, yet that no one is employed on foreign service who has not been previously acquainted with Hospital practice at Woolwich—and that promotion, unless in special cases, goes by seniority.

“The Medical concerns of the Navy, since the abolition of the Sick and Hurt Office, are conducted by the Transport Board, and chiefly by the Medical Member of it, who has had great experience as a Naval Surgeon, and as Physician to the Fleet. The establishment, independent of that of the Naval Hospitals, consists of two Inspectors of Hospitals, being Physicians, who have served at sea; and of Surgeons and Assistant-Surgeons to ships, whose number is regulated by the rate of the ship, or, in smaller vessels, by the complement of men; and one Physician is occasionally allowed to a fleet.

“The establishments at the Naval Hospitals are according to their extent. At Haslar, calculated to receive 1800 patients, there are three Physicians, three Surgeons, one Dispenser, and twelve Hospital Mates. At Plymouth, calculated to receive 1,200 patients, there are two Physicians, two Surgeons, one Dispenser, and ten Mates but the number of Mates varies with the number of

patients. According to this proportion, therefore, it seems to be considered that one Physician, one Surgeon, and four or five Mates, are sufficient for 600 patients. It is required, that candidates for employment, previous to their appointment in the Medical service of the Navy, should produce certificates of their surgical abilities from the College of Surgeons at London, Dublin, or Edinburgh; and that they should be examined as to their skill in physic by the Medical Member of the Transport Board, who has two fixed days in each week for such examination; but when candidates have presented themselves, he is in the practice, he states, of examining them at other times. All persons entering into the Naval Medical Service must first serve as Assistant-Surgeons; these are promoted to the rank of Surgeon, according to the time that they have served, and the characters which they have obtained for general good conduct and professional skill; and they must again undergo an examination before the College of Surgeons, and the Medical Members of the Board, unless they shall have been certified, in the first instance, to be duely qualified for the rank of Surgeon.

“ Hospital-Mates, Assistant-Surgeons, and Surgeons, are appointed by the Transport Board. We understand that there is great difficulty in procuring Hospital-Mates, and Assistant-Surgeons, properly qualified, and that the number deficient at present cannot be less than Six Hundred. Physicians to the Fleet, and to Hospitals, and Surgeons to Hospitals, are appointed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. They must, however, all be selected from the list of Naval Surgeons; and the Physicians must have served five years as Surgeons.

“ The pay of the Medical Member of the Transport Board is One Thousand Pounds per annum, with no other emolument. The Inspectors have each Five Hundred Pounds per annum salary, and an allowance for subsistence when on service, (*i. e.* when absent from town) of One Guinea per diem, and One Shilling and Six-pence

per mile for travelling expences; one-half is, however, deducted from the subsistence when they are embarked on board King's Ships.

“ The duties of the two Inspectors, who are generally resident in London, and who, it is understood, are not to practice for their private emolument, are to visit the Naval Hospitals on shore and afloat, and King's Ships of every description; to report on the conduct of the Medical Officers employed, and the state of the sick; on the general management and economy of the Hospitals, and on the conditions of the medicines and other articles in store; *but they cannot give directions relative to the treatment of the sick**.

“ The Transport Board judges of the conduct of the Assistant-Surgeons from the reports of the Surgeons and Officers under whom they are serving, and certificates from them must be produced annually, before the Assistants are allowed to receive their pay. The professional conduct of the Surgeons is judged of from the reports of the Inspectors of Hospitals, and by the opinion formed by the Medical Member of the Board on his perusal of the journals, which the Surgeons are required to keep, of their practice on board of ships, and to produce, before their pay can be received. The general conduct of the Medical Officers of Hospitals is under the controul of their Governors respectively; and the professional practice of those Officers is open to the animadversion of the Inspectors in their visitations.

“ It appears, therefore, that in the Medical Service of the Navy, as in that of the Ordnance, the Medical Superintendence is in those who must necessarily have had great medical experience in the service; and that their attention is solely dedicated to their employments—that the business of the Inspection of the Hospitals, and of the King's

* Dr. Harness, chief of the Department, considers “ that it would be improper they should do so.” (Fifth Report, page 178.)

Ships, is conducted by two Navy Physicians, whose general residence is in London; yet that very effectual checks seem to be provided on the conduct of the Navy Medical Officers; and, that the Medical Establishments of the great Naval Hospitals at Haslar and Plymouth are *very inferior, in proportion to the sick calculated to be received at them, to those which have been established in the Army General Hospitals.*

“ We have also enquired into the nature of the Medical Establishment of the East India Company’s Army, and into the mode in which their Medical Department is conducted.

“ There is a separate establishment (as we learn from Dr. Yates, who was a considerable time in the service of the Company) at each Presidency. That at Madras, with which Dr. Yates was best acquainted, consists of a Board, formed of the three Senior Surgeons in the service, who superintend the conduct of the whole Department, and have the immediate superintendence of the Madras General Hospital. The remainder of the Establishment (there being no such rank as that of Physician in the Company’s Service) consists of Staff-Surgeons (called Superintending Surgeons of Divisions), of Surgeons, and Assistant-Surgeons. When the numbers of this Establishment are complete, Dr. Yates thinks that it is efficient for the service of the Company’s Army. The Medical Board at the Presidency used formerly to nominate to situations in this service; but for some years past the patronage has been entirely in the Governor and Council. Promotion, however, goes according to seniority.

“ The duties of the Staff or Superintending Surgeons are, to reside in their divisions; to inspect the Hospitals within them once in three months; to regulate the practice of Surgeons and Assistant-Surgeons of regiments; and to receive monthly returns from them of the copies of their daily journals, containing an account of the

number of the sick, their disorders, treatment, and the event, and the quantity of medicines expended, remaining and wanted. These reports the Superintending Surgeons communicate to the Board, with such comments as they may deem necessary; and the Board makes a report on the whole to the Commander in Chief.

“ Even when the Company’s Army is employed on active service, the system is the same; and the only addition is, of one Staff-Surgeon to superintend the whole Medical Department of such Army, and of a Medical Gentleman to take charge of the Hospital stores; with, occasionally three or four additional Assistant-Surgeons, who are at the disposal of the Staff-Surgeon. It will be recollected, that the same simple and economical mode of management was exemplified in General Baird’s Army in Egypt, whilst the Medical Department of that Army was under the superintendence of Dr. McGrigor.

“ We learn further from Dr. Yates, that the Surgeons and Assistant-Surgeons have an allowance from the Company for providing what are called country medicines and necessaries for the sick; but the company supplies them with such medicines as are imported from Europe, on an indent, approved and countersigned by the Staff-Surgeon of the division.

“ Our general observations on this statement of the India Company’s Army Medical System, as contrasted with that on which we are commenting—are *that the gentlemen who have the superintendence of it must necessarily, as in the two former Medical Departments, have had great experience in all the branches of Medical service—that this superintendence appears to be uniform and undivided—that the regularity of the promotion must lead to a steady continuance in the service; and is likely to prevent discontent—and, that even on active service, little additional Medical aid is really wanting beyond that which the regiments can furnish !!!*”

Comparative View of the Regimental Medical Establishments of the East India Company, and that of his Majesty's Army.

The numbers of Medical Officers of different descriptions in the Royal service, according to the official returns made to the Commissioners of Military Enquiry by the Medical Board, (see Fifth Report, page 12) are: Eight Inspectors, Eighteen Deputy-Inspectors, Seventeen Physicians to the Forces, Sixty Staff-Surgeons, Twenty-six District-Surgeons, Sixteen Apothecaries, Eight Purveyors, Fourteen Deputy-Purveyors, One Hundred and Thirty Hospital-Mates: Total 303, almost all of them since that period considerably increased. To which, when we add the Regimental Staff, being *now* one Surgeon and *two* Assistants to each battalion of Five Hundred men and upwards, and supposing the number of battalions to be upwards of Two Hundred, we shall have between Six and Seven Hundred Medical Officers more, making in all about a Thousand * persons, at the arbitrary disposal as I have shewn of the three Members of the Medical Board; at whose will and pleasure Officers have been dismissed the service, reinstated, promoted, or their promotion retarded, that is, according to the caprice, prejudices, partialities, or revenge of these three individuals, a system of despotism never, I believe, known to have been brought to such perfection in any other department.

It is remarkable that the great unnecessary, or rather pernicious increase not only of the Inspectorial and Hospital-Staff Systems, but of the Assistant-Surgeons to regiments, should have kept pace with the influence of that vaunted

* The number may not be exact; but that can make no difference in respect to the principle.

economist Mr. Knight. He was made Inspector-General in Dec. 1801; and, not to speak of the extraordinary increase of Inspectors since that period, in September, 1803, the number of Assistant-Surgeons to regiments was *doubled*. (See Fifth Report, page 29.)

The object of this increase was evidently to increase the patronage of the Medical Board, and by far the greatest share of that patronage as I have shewn has been engrossed by Mr. Knight; his share being at least as Fifty to Forty of the whole. But the Commissioners of Military Enquiry are of opinion, that the Regimental Staff was quite sufficient for every useful purpose before this increase; nay, they think the addition has been positively injurious to the service.

“ In this view of the subject, one Surgeon would probably be found sufficient for a Militia Regiment; but to Infantry Regiments of the Line, there should always be one Surgeon and one Assistant; and to the Regiments of Cavalry, on their present large establishment, one Surgeon and two Assistants, because much more liable to be detached.

“ But, though we admit the necessity of increased Assistants to Regiments liable to be detached, it must not be inferred, that the Regimental System of managing Hospitals precludes the idea of assistance to detachments of other regiments in the same quarters; on the contrary, reciprocity of assistance is common; and, from what we are about to state, it appears may be conveniently continued, even if the appointment of the second Assistant-Surgeon were to cease. In September last, the Surgeon of the second battalion of the 43d Regiment had under his charge in Hythe Barracks, besides his own sick, those of the first battalion, sent on service, and those of Detachments of the Royal Artillery, 53d and 95th Regiments, amounting together to about fifty patients; in the management of which he felt no difficulty, though the

situation of Assistant, which became vacant in October preceding, had not then been filled. The Surgeon of the 16th Light Dragoons, at Shorncliff, had more patients under his immediate care, to the management of which he was fully competent, although he was under the necessity of visiting out-quarters, and his Assistant was detached at Romney. An increase of numbers allotted to a particular duty does not always produce a correspondent benefit. This was witnessed with regard to the Medical Staff, as we have before observed, by Dr. Jackson in Flanders, during the last war. And it appears, from a printed order of his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, of the 3d of February, 1803,* that the consequence of this addition of an Assistant Surgeon to the Regimental Staff was not, as had been expected from the former regulations, a diminution of the expence of the extra attendance of country practitioners, but a greater indulgence in the Commanding Officers in granting leaves of absence to the Medical Staff of Regiments; and it was distinctly stated to those of our Members who had opportunities of visiting those Regimental Hospitals, that the appointment of Assistants in the Militia Regiments, and of second Assistants in the Regiments of the Line, had been productive of very injurious effects to the service and even to the young men themselves who had been so appointed." (Fif. R. p. 31.)

But even this extraordinary increase of *one third* in the Regimental Staff was not sufficient to satisfy the cravings for patronage of the Surgeon and Inspector-General, whose appetites in this way appear to be perfectly insatiable. Not to speak of Inspectors, Deputy-Inspectors, Physicians, Staff Surgeons, and other *fruges consumere nati*, after having increased the Regimental Medical Staff by *one third*, they again, in the field or on expeditions, gallantly *double* that *increased number* in Hospital Mates

* For the Order, see Fifth Report, p. 213.

only. "The number" (of Hospital Mates on foreign stations) says Mr. Keate, "is generally determined by the nature of the service. Our principle has generally been to *double* the number of the Assistant Surgeons of the Regiments upon the same service; but *we have seldom had it in our power to complete this proportion.*" (Fifth Rep. p. 132, Q. 21). 'The Inspector-General is still more liberal in his allowance. "We are governed," says he, "by the necessities of the service, and our *usual* calculation of late has been, on every separate expedition, to furnish as many Hospital Mates as will *double the Regimental Medical Staff.*" (Fifth Rep. p. 125, Q. 7).

Now, we know that the proportion of Regimental Medical Staff on the East India establishments is three Officers (one Surgeon and two assistants) to two battalions of from 1,600 to 2000 men. If, therefore, we take both the establishments (the King's and the Company's) at their lowest numbers, we shall have, in the former, *three* Medical Officers to *five* hundred men; and in the latter *three* to *sixteen* hundred; and if we take them both at their highest numbers, we shall have, in the former, *three* Medical Officers to *one* thousand men, and in the latter *three* to *two* thousand; the Regimental Staff of the British Army being, at the minimum strength of the corps, *three times more numerous*, and at their maximum strength *twice more numerous* than that of the East India Company's establishments. But, taking the one at the maximum, and the other at the minimum strength of the corps, the proportion may even occasionally be as *four* is to *one*!

But seeing that, according to the preceding statement, the Regimental Medical Staff in his Majesty's service *is always double*, and *may*, according to the state of the regiments, be *three*, or even occasionally *four times* the number of the Company's Regimental Medical Staff, and that here the former are again *doubled* on expeditions,

in Hospital Mates only, the result will be that, independent of Inspectors, Deputy-Inspectors, Physicians, Staff-Surgeons, &c. the Royal Medical Staff, on expeditions, or in the field, is *always four times, and may be six or eight times* more numerous than those of the East India Company's establishments.

These facts cannot but appear most extraordinary, especially when we reflect that the East India Company's Medical establishments, even amidst frequent wars, are considered by proper judges to be, when complete, ample and efficient (see Dr. Yates's evidence, Fifth Report, p. 191. Q. 2); and this too in a climate where there must necessarily be more disease on the part of the soldier, and less activity on the part of the Medical Officer.

Even in the field and on expeditions, this comparatively small number of Medical Officers have, from superior organisation and management, been found perfectly adequate to the necessities of our armies in that quarter of the globe.

On this subject the evidence of Dr. Yates is very satisfactory.

Q. "What is the establishment of the Medical Department (at Madras) when the army takes the field for active service?"

A. "The system is the same as I have already stated, (merely Regimental Medical Officers) with the addition of a Staff Surgeon appointed to superintend the whole Medical Department of the Army, and a Medical gentleman to take charge of the Hospital stores; there is sometimes occasion for three or four additional Assistant Surgeons, who are at the disposal of the Staff Surgeon." (See Fifth Report, p. 191).

Dr. McGrigor's testimony is quite conclusive of this point.

Q. "When you was at the head of the Medical Staff

“ of the Indian Army sent from Bombay to Egypt in
 “ 1801, what was the Medical establishment belonging to
 “ that army ?

A. “ The army consisted with followers of about
 “ 8000 men, and with the exception of myself and
 “ a store-keeper, (who was appointed after our landing at
 “ Kessier) we had only *the usual regimental establish-*
 “ *ment.*” (See Fifth Report, p. 184, Q. 23).

Here is an instance exactly in point; and we hear no complaint of inefficiency.

I know it has been alledged by some that the East India Medical Establishments are not sufficiently ample, and that at the battle of Assay there were not a sufficient number of Medical men to take care of the wounded. This, if report be true, was also the case at least in an equal degree at the battle of Corunna, although in the latter the Medical Officers, according to the usual rates of the two establishments, must have been somewhat from *four to eight* times as numerous as in the former. But to found any rule for the ordinary proportion of the Medical Department, upon unusual and extraordinary contingencies, would be preposterous in the extreme. Under an intelligent superintendence, such contingencies might easily be provided for, by attaching to the troops in the field some of the superfluous Assistant Surgeons belonging to corps which are not on active service. In this country there is not a regiment unemployed which could not easily spare at least one of its Assistant Surgeons on such emergencies; and in India they might be taken from the civil stations.

It might have been supposed that, when the Medical Department of the Army had become a subject of public and parliamentary discussion, but particularly after the appearance of the Fifth Report of the Commissioners of Military Enquiry, the comparisons which had been made between it and other establishments would have

excited the Medical Board to some voluntary attempts at improvement. But their contempt even of appearances seem, if possible, to have increased; and, if we may judge from the number of appointments which have recently been made, they have been driving a brisker trade in the business of patronage than ever. In these proceedings, they may be compared to the unfortunate female, who thinks it superfluous, her frailties having already come before the public, to observe any farther restraint; or to the knavish shopkeeper, who, foreseeing the approach of bankruptcy, determines, while he has yet the power, to sell off his stock to the highest bidder, and, regardless of the interests of his creditors, to retire with as much ready money as he can.

SKETCH OF A NEW ORGANISATION OF THE MEDICAL
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, FOUNDED ON THE
PRINCIPLES DEVELOPED IN THE COURSE OF THE
PRECEDING ANALYSIS.

It appears that the Medical Officers of all descriptions, attached to our regular Army, equal or exceed a thousand in number. Now, if we calculate the regular Army at 250,000 men, the proportion of Medical Officers will be as one to two hundred and fifty men. But, in order to be sure of making a liberal estimate, let us take the Army at 300,000 men, this will give the proportion of one Medical Officer to every three hundred men, certainly, if we may judge from the East India Company's establishments, in which the proportion is three to two thousand, or one to six hundred and sixty-six men, at least double the number necessary; and yet the Medical Board complain of a want of Medical recruits.

Giving, indeed, every sort of indulgence to the present plan, we are still obliged to conclude that the number of Medical Officers employed, even when the estab-

lishment is, according to the ideas of the Medical Board, incomplete, would be much more than sufficient, were ranks and duties regulated by principles of common sense and common justice.

In the new organisation which I would propose, as calculated to combine the greatest simplicity with the greatest efficiency, the East India Company's establishments appear to be the best model for imitation; and if it should not be practicable, in the present state of the Medical Department at home, immediately to attain the degree of perfection which these distant establishments have happily acquired, no endeavour should be wanting on our part to approach it, as nearly as circumstances will admit.

From all that has been said, it follows:—

1. That in the collision between Mr. Knight's boy Inspectors, Sir Lucas Pepys's College Physicians, and Mr. Keate's Principal Medical Officers, an eternal clashing of rank, a constant struggle for patronage, perpetual injustice to senior and more experienced Officers, and irreparable injury to the sick of our Army, must be, as experience has amply proved, the invariable results:—That the whole has, in fact, been converted into a job, by the three Members of the Medical Board for their own benefit.
2. That all these superfluous Offices should be therefore abolished, and those occupying them should fall back into the ranks according to their standing upon the whole in the Army;—with as little detriment as possible, however, to the individual incumbents.
3. That there should in future be no distinction of rank but those of Surgeon and Assistant-Surgeon: but that there should be different degrees of pay, regulated by length of service.
4. That promotion should invariably go by seniority. Particular services, destinations, or employments, to

- be subject of course to the discretion of the superior Officers of the Department.
5. That in respect to General Hospitals, the senior Surgeons should be the chiefs, and the junior Assistant-Surgeons, unattached to regiments, should do the subordinate duties of these establishments.
 6. That there should be but one Assistant-Surgeon, as formerly, to each regiment.
 7. That the present system of supplying medicines; Hospital stores, wines, liquors, &c. as having the effect of producing a most wasteful expenditure to the state, and of injuriously extending the influence and patronage of the Medical Board, should (it being clearly ascertained to be no infringement of the Apothecary-General's patent right*) be forthwith abolished.
 8. That, in lieu thereof, a certain liberal allowance (say 3*l.* or 400*l. per annum*) should be made to Regimental Surgeons for supplying these articles.
 9. That for the chief regulation of the Department, in

* Mr. Knight, who does not participate, with the Physician and Surgeon-General, in the influence, patronage, &c. arising from the present mode of supplying medicines to the Army, considers it very exceptionable. "In lieu" says he, "of the present *exceptionable* mode of supplying medicines, to the Army under the patent of the Apothecary-General, it may be suggested that the patent should be redeemed," (Sec Fifth Report, p. 119). I was a good deal surprised, on perusing this paragraph, to find myself for once of the same opinion with Mr. Knight, on a subject of such importance. But on reading a little farther my surprise vanished. In the very next sentence I discovered that the Inspector-General only wished to abolish one job, in order to replace it by another, in which he himself might have some chance of participating; for he recommends, "That a Public Elaboratory be established on a scale that would comprehend all Medical demands for the *Navy and Ordnance*," (Mr. Knight, not content with his present share, wishes to extend the patronage beyond the limits of the establishment) "as well as the *Army, both in Ireland and England*," (Ibid).—For the Terms of the Apothecary-General's Patent, see page 200.

detail, there should be a Board, composed of three Members, to be called, as in India, First, Second, and Third Members of the Medical Board*.

10. That the conduct of this Board should be subject to fixed regulations; and that all the Members should be responsible, in that capacity, for their conduct. That they should not have the power of dismissing, or recommending to dismiss, any Medical Officer from the service, but through the legal medium of a Court martial.
11. That in making the first selection, it may be expedient to choose the Members of the new Board from the most capable persons that can be found, particularly as distinguished by their knowledge of the diseases of hot climates, and of the necessities of Armies on active service.
12. That, afterwards, each vacancy occurring in the Board, should be filled up (there being no just ground of objection) by the next Senior Officer of the Department.

* In the Letters of Aretæus we find the following remarks on the subject of the Medical Boards in India: "Promotion by seniority being there established by law, every man in the service is assured, if he lives long enough, of arriving in his turn at the highest offices of the department. The Medical Boards consequently are composed of the three senior Medical Officers of each establishment, to whom the situation, after a life usefully spent in the service, affords an honorable asylum for old age. But having thus attained the most eminent station, with emoluments equivalent to their rank, the Members of the Medical Boards in India are, by the laws of the service properly precluded from the exercise of undue authority, either in respect to patronage or promotion, over others. They are not even dignified by any superior titles; but are simply called *first*, *second*, and *third* Member of the Medical Board. In the case of Dr. Anderson of Madras, indeed, the title of *Physician-General* has been allowed to remain during life, as an honorary distinction for eminent services, not only in his immediate department, but in every laudable pursuit or enquiry which could benefit his employers or mankind at large. But the abilities and philanthropy of Dr. Anderson are too well known to require any eulogium from me." (Vide Medical Observer, vol. iii. p. 24).

Table exhibiting the relative Rank and Pay of Medical Officers of his Majesty's Army, according to the New Organisation proposed for the Establishment :

Medical Rank.	Army Rank.	Pay.
First Member of the Medical Board	General.	2,500 <i>l.</i> per Ann.
Second Member of the Medical Board		
Third Member of the Medical Board	Lieut.-Gen.	2000 <i>l.</i>
Surgeons of Thirty years standing in the service ..	Major-Gen.	1500 <i>l.</i>
Surgeons of Twenty-five years ditto		
Surgeons of Twenty years ditto	Brig.-Gen.	45 <i>s.</i> per Diem.
Surgeons of Fifteen years ditto	Ditto	40 <i>s.</i>
Surgeons of Ten years ditto ..		
Junior Surgeons	Colonel	35 <i>s.</i>
Assistant-Surgeons of Four years standing in the service	Lieut.-Col.	30 <i>s.</i>
Junior Assistant-Surgeons ..		
	Lieutenant.	15 <i>s.</i>
	Ensign	10 <i>s.</i>

A scale of rank and pay, like this, corresponding with the dignity of the professional character and education, together with the simple regulation of promotion by seniority, would ensure a choice of proper persons for the Medical Department of his Majesty's service. The establishment would thus be efficient with less than half the number of persons now employed, and certainly much less than half the expence. The pay of the different Officers of the Department has been taken at a liberal estimate, so as to place them above the temptation of fraud.

NOTES A AND B, (*see page 31*).

The degree of Batchelor of Physic is now given at Oxford the *eighth* year after matriculation; about thirty years ago it was not given till the *tenth*, but even then, so little knowledge of medicine was thought requisite for it, that he who received it was only said to be admitted *to read the Aphorisms of Hippocrates*. At Cambridge the same degree may be obtained as soon as the *fifth* year after entrance is completed. The candidate first *keeps an act*, which consists in defending two questions, one chosen by himself, the other by the Professor of Medicine; but the latter is given when asked for, however long this may be before the defence is to be made. The Statutes of the University require also, that the candidate should *oppose* another candidate for a degree in Physic; but this is now dispensed with *for twenty shillings*. These ceremonies then have not the least resemblance to an *examination*; and no person, I believe, is ever rejected at them for want of Medical learning. It is on the contrary, well known, that Students at Cambridge, to save time, often take the degree of Batchelor of Medicine, when they have scarcely entered upon the study of their intended profession, meaning, no doubt, to apply to it with great diligence, during the *five* years which must afterwards pass away before they can receive a *Doctors* degree. Yet, in the sight of Sir Lucas Pepys, a *Cambridge Batchelor of Physic* appears fit, without further trial, to be a Physician to his Majesty's Forces *in the West Indies*, while a man, *so gifted and adorned as Dr. Wright*, appears unfit, and is, therefore, sent by him to be examined by the College of Physicians of London! Such are the grounds upon which the Physicians of Scotch and Foreign Universities must build their expectations of justice from the

College, when they apply for admission into the fellowship. If it be said that no conclusion from the conduct of an individual ought to be applied to the whole body, my answer is, that the conduct of that individual must, in its principle at least, be approved by the body at large, since he is marked by their opinion to succeed Dr. Gisborne, in the Presidency of the Corporation.

It may be gratifying to many to know that by his Majesty's command, orders were last year issued from the War Office, to regulate, in future, the appointment of Physicians to the Army; and that, in consequence, it is now no longer necessary that they have licences from the London College, or degrees from the English Universities*. Those who formerly nominated Physicians to

* Dr. Wells, with every liberal minded man, had apparent cause to rejoice in this regulation, graciously intended by his Majesty to remove a most enormous abuse; and he could scarcely have expected that the Physician-General, with the connivance of the other two Members of the soi-disant Medical Board, could have had the audacity to disregard it. In the wording of the regulations alluded to by Dr. Wells, which no one can doubt has been the work of the Medical Board, they have taken care to render, in the first instance, the gracious intention of his Majesty nugatory; for, according to them no Graduate of other Universities than Oxford or Cambridge can be admitted Physicians to the Army, without having, by mandate from his Majesty, first undergone *one or more* examinations by the Physician-General and two Army Physicians. "Thus a Cullen, a Munro, a Black, or a Gregory, who have probably taught most of the eminent Physicians of Europe, all the present Professors of the celebrated University of Edinburgh, who annually confer degrees on nearly forty Students from the different quarters of the globe, would, if candidates for employment in the Army, have to undergo the mortification of submitting to *one or more* examinations by the Physician-General and two subordinate Army Physicians, who *might* be comparatively boys, and whose principal knowledge *might* consist of only a smattering of Greek and Latin. (Their examiners, indeed, might have recently been their own pupils.) But farther, after having submitted to such humiliation, these candidates *might* be rejected, according to the caprice (prejudice or views of interest) of their examiners; and thus we should have the extraordinary case of a Physician-General to the Army, with two subordi-

the Land Forces were allowed to form their own rules, and a like indulgence was for some years enjoyed by Sir Lucas Pepys. When this was taken away, some persons thought, that after such a disgrace, as they termed it, he would feel himself obliged, as a man of spirit, to resign his Office, as he could in no other way demonstrate the purity, if not the wisdom, of his intentions in framing the rules which had been annulled. Fortunately, however, he has been influenced by no such extravagant notions of personal dignity; but from unbounded zeal for his sovereign's glory, and a most tender regard for the welfare of our gallant soldiers, in *every* part of the world, still remains Physician-General to the army*."

"nate Physicians, permitted to arrogate to themselves (for if they had not the power of rejection, that of examination would be ridiculous) an authority superior to that of the most splendid University which has ever existed in the world!" (Vide Aretæus's Letters on the Medical Department of the Army, Medical Observer, vol. iii. p. 19). But as scarcely any person can be found to submit to this degradation, the gracious intention of his Majesty, it is evident would be frustrated, if even Sir Lucas Pepys did not take a more direct method of invalidating it, by persisting to require incorporation with the College as an indispensable qualification for an Army Physician. These are the words of the regulation: "In the case of Physicians, a Medical degree at Oxford or Cambridge (a Batchelor as we know), or a licence from the College of Physicians of London, although always desirable, not to be deemed *indispensible* requisites, if the candidate should otherwise have strong pretentions from Military service, local knowledge and experience, or other circumstances of special cogency; or if he should be a Medical Graduate of *any* University in Great Britain or Ireland, and be found properly qualified in other respects on one or more examinations, by the Physician-General, assisted by two Army Physicians to be associated with him on such examinations, by his Majesty's order, through the Commander in Chief, or the Secretary at War." (Vide Fifth Report C. M. E. p. 97). This regulation has been so framed as to leave its intention capable of being constantly eluded.

* See Dr. Wells's Letter to Lord Kenyon, Medical Observer, vol. vi. p. 311.

Note to the War Office Letter in Page 107.

To all the absurd or mischievous regulations proposed by that Board, they took care previously to solicit the approbation of the Commander in Chief, or Secretary at War, which was usually given, no doubt, under the idea of their being proper; and the regulations were afterwards said to be promulgated under the authority of these Officers. Thus we are told by Sir Lucas Pepys and Mr. Keate, that “the title of Principal Medical Officer” was first established *by authority of the Commander in Chief, and the Secretary at War, in 1798.* (Fifth Report, p. 159). Nothing has been transacted in this Department as by right. Every thing has been done by the *recommendation* of some Member of the Board; and this, backed by the sanction abovementioned, was thought sufficient to justify every abuse. For instance, forage money is stated to have been allowed to Dr. Borland *by the recommendation of Mr. Knight.* (Fifth Report, p. 115, 116). Now, I should be glad to know what right the Inspector-General had to recommend forage money to Dr. Borland, and *not* to recommend it to other Officers of the same rank; or what right the Treasury had to attend to such partial recommendation. This, although the amount is but trifling, considered as a precedent, is scandalous and unjustifiable in the highest degree.

MEDICAL LECTURES.

UNDER THE SANCTION OF THE HONOURABLE COURT OF
DIRECTORS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

DR. MACLEAN's next Course of Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Medicine, particularly as applicable to the Diseases of Hot Climates, will commence on Monday the 5th of November, at 5 o'Clock in the afternoon. Terms, (to those not in the East India Company's service) for one Course, Three Guineas; for Two Courses, Five Guineas; Perpetual Pupil, Six Guineas. Apply to Dr. Maclean, 29, Air Street, Piccadilly.

COPY OF THE APOTHECARY-GENERAL'S PATENT, DATED JAN. 19, 1747.

“ George the Second, by the Grace of God, &c.

“ TO all to whom these Presents shall come ; greeting. Know ye, that we of our especial grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, have given and granted, and by these presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do give and grant unto our trusty and well-beloved George Garnier, the Younger, the Office or Place of Apothecary-General to our Army raised and to be raised for our Service ; and him the said George Garnier, Apothecary-General to our Army raised and to be raised for our Service, we do for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, make, ordain, create, and constitute by these Presents, to have, hold, and enjoy the said Office or Place of Apothecary-General to our Army raised and to be raised for our Service ; together with all Rights, Profits, Priviledges, and Advantages thereunto belonging, or as any other Person hath heretofore held and enjoyed, or of Right ought to have held and enjoyed the same, for and during the natural Life of him the said Garnier, from and immediately after the Death, surrender, forfeiture, or other sooner determination of the Estate and Interest in the said Office or Place of his Father, George Garnier, Esq. who now holds and enjoys the said Office or Place by virtue of our Commission granted to him, bearing date the Seventeenth Day of March, in the Year of our Lord Christ, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Five : Provided always, and these our Letters Patent are and shall be upon this express condition, that he the said George Garnier, the Younger, doth from time to time observe and follow such Orders and Directions as he shall receive from Us, or any his superior Officer for the time being ; and that he doth take

care to furnish our said Army raised and to be raised for our Service, with good and wholesome Medicaments; and to do and perform carefully and deligently all and all manner of Things to the Duty of the said Office or Place in anywise belonging or appertaining: And lastly, We do hereby for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, grant unto the said George Garnier, the Younger, that these our Letters Patent, or the Enrolment or Exemplification thereof shall be in and by all Things good, firm, valid, sufficient, and effectual in the Law, according to the true Intent and Meaning hereof; any omission, imperfection, defect, matter, cause, or Thing whatsoever, to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding. In Witness, &c. Witness, &c. &c.

(Signed) “ JOHN CALVERT, Clarke.
“ Deputy to the Apothecary-General.”

*Bloomsbury Square,
March 18, 1807.*

The above is a true Copy.

N. B.—The Date is stated to be the 19th of January, 1747.

The Terms of the Apothecary-General's Patent are referred to in page 192, and other Parts of this Work.

FINIS.

